

GRS 320

S E C R E T

SECRET

FM MOSCOW 021015Z JULY 80

TO FLASH F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 456 OF 2ND JULY

FOR INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON AND PARIS

MY TEL NO 451: SCHMIDT VISIT

1. MY GERMAN COLLEAGUE HAS NOW BRIEFED ME ON THE VISIT. THE FORMAL ALLIED BRIEFING WILL BE GIVEN BY VAN WELL SO I SHALL NOT GO OVER THE DETAIL.
2. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT BREZHNEV SAID THAT DISCUSSION OF MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES WOULD PROPERLY BE FOR SALT III BUT THIS WAS BLOCKED BECAUSE OF THE NON-RATIFICATION OF SALT II. THE IDEA OF PRELIMINARY SALT III TALKS, PENDING SALT II NOTIFICATION, WAS "NOT PROMISING", BUT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WERE THINKING THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS ON MEDIUM RANGE MISSILES INCLUDING FORWARD-BASED SYSTEMS UNDER AMERICAN CONTROL (BUT NOT, BY IMPLICATION, OTHERS) WITH THE UNITED STATES NOW. THE RESULTS OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL AFTER THE RATIFICATION OF SALT II.
3. THE SCHMIDT IDEA OF NON-DEPLOYMENT PENDING NEGOTIATIONS WAS REJECTED ON THE GROUND THAT IT WOULD INVOLVE A UNILATERAL SOVIET CONCESSION. THE SOVIET UNION WAS "NOT WILLING TO MAKE A BINDING STATEMENT" ON SALT II IMPLEMENTATION PENDING RATIFICATION.
4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION WIECK SAID THAT THE SOVIET SIDE HAD INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF GENSCHER MENTIONED THE PROPOSAL FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON. WIECK CONFIRMED THAT IT SEEMED THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WERE ENVISAGED, NOT "TALKS ABOUT TALKS" AND THAT NO PRIOR CONDITIONS WERE SUGGESTED BY THE SOVIET SIDE.
5. THE SEPARATE TALK WITH USTINOV WAS NOT DIRECTLY RELEVANT. THE CHANCELLOR, SPEAKING IN PART AS A FORMER DEFENCE MINISTER, WAS TRYING TO SHOW USTINOV HOW THE STRATEGIC THREAT LOOKED FROM A WESTERN VIEWPOINT AND USTINOV WAS RESPONDING IN KIND. WIECK DESCRIBED IT AS A "PSYCHOLOGICAL EXERCISE".
6. THE RUSSIANS ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY WERE WORKING ON A PROPOSAL FOR MBFR AGREEMENT ON FIRST STAGE REDUCTIONS OF 20,000 BY THE SOVIET UNION (IN ADDITION TO THE EARLIER WITHDRAWAL FROM GDR) AND 13,000 BY THE UNITED STATES. SCHMIDT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON THIS.

KEEBLE

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

EESD

ACDD

WED

DEF D

NEWS D

SAD

OID

NAD

IPD

JNU

CABINET OFFICE

S E C R E T