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UK EYES ALFA

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TO IMMEDIATE MODUK

TELNO 020030Z MARCH 87

INFO PRIORITY FCO

SIC AAA/ACA/EAS

EXCLUSIVE FOR REAR ADMIRAL SLATER ACDS (POL/NUC)

FCO (FOR SLATER (AUS))

FROM KERR

YOUR SIGNAL OF 27 FEBRUARY, AND FCO TELNO 299 :
PROPOSED UK/USSR SPACE CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT.

1. YOUR CONCERN IS FULLY UNDERSTOOD, AND ACTION ON FCO TELNO 299 WAS THEREFORE DELAYED TO ALLOW IN-HOUSE BDS/EMBASSY CONSULTATIONS, INVOLVING ALL THOSE REPRESENTING MOD AND OTHER UK INTERESTS HERE WHICH COULD BE AFFECTED BY ADVERSE US REACTIONS TO THE PROPOSED ANGLO-SOVIET AGREEMENT.
2. THE UNANIMOUS VIEW OF ALL CONCERNED, WHICH I SHARE, IS THAT:-
 - (A) THE RISK OF INFORMED ADVERSE REACTIONS ANYWHERE IN THE US DEFENCE (AND INTELLIGENCE) COMMUNITY IS VERY LOW. THE LAST 4 POINTS IN PARA 3 OF THE FCO TELEGRAM SHOULD BE REASSURING, TO THE INFORMED. AS YOU SAY, OBJECTIVELY THERE ARE NO GROUNDS FOR REAL US WORRIES.
 - (B) BUT THE RISK THAT ADVERSE REACTIONS, FROM THE UNINFORMED PERHAPS, PICKING UP EXAGGERATED ACCOUNTS OF PROSPECTIVE/ACTUAL UK/SOVIET CO-OPERATION, COULD CAUSE OR EXCUSE DAMAGE TO PARTICULAR AREAS OF ROUTINE US/UK CO-OPERATION, IS REAL.
 - (C) GIVEN (A), THERE IS NO CASE FOR EMBASSY/BDS ADVICE TO GO SLOW ON THE PROPOSED ANGLO-SOVIET AGREEMENT, OR ON TELLING STATE ABOUT IT. BUT GIVEN (B) THERE IS A STRONG CASE FOR AN EARLY AND ACTIVE EMBASSY/BDS INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WITHIN THE US DEFENCE/INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. WE SHOULD NOT RELY ON STATE TO DO THE JOB FOR US.
 - (D) THE JOB SHOULD HOWEVER BE DONE AT WORKING LEVEL, IN THE COURSE OF NORMAL BUSINESS, WITHOUT GREAT SONG AND DANCE. QUOTE QUI S'EXCUSE, S'ACCUSE UNQUOTE: AND WE MUST AVOID SEEMING TO QUOTE PROTEST TOO MUCH UNQUOTE.
3. WE SHALL NOW PROCEED ACCORDINGLY. ACTION ON FCO TELNO 299 WILL BE TAKEN IN STATE EARLY THIS WEEK. NASA AND SDIO WILL BE BRIEFED SIMULTANEOUSLY. OSD, JCS, AND NSA WILL BE INFORMED LATER IN THE WEEK, IN THE COURSE OF NORMAL BUSINESS. AND THE SPACE ELEMENTS IN ALL THREE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS WILL ALSO BE TIPPED OFF. WE ENVISAGE A FURTHER AND SIMILAR BRIEFING ROUND AFTER THE AGREEMENT'S

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4. WE CANNOT OF COURSE GUARANTEE THAT ALL THIS WILL PREVENT ANY KUMASHIRO-TYPE REACTIONS IN FAR-FLUNG US COMMANDS AND RESEARCH AGENCIES. OUR INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WILL HAVE TO BE MAINTAINED FOR SOME TIME. AND WE OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO ENSURE BY KEEPING THE CENTRE FULLY INFORMED, THAT ANY SUCH PROBLEMS ARE REASONABLY SHORT-LIVED. POINTS OF PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY ARE LIKELY TO BE:-

(A) SOVIET PRESENCE AT RAE FARNBOROUGH;

(B) PRECISE NATURE OF MATERIALS, SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS, AND EXTENT OF SOVIET ACCESS TO RELEVANT EQUIPMENT.

TO HELP US DEAL WITH (A) IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE DETAILS IN DUE COURSE OF THE QUOTE BARRIERS UNQUOTE WHICH WILL PROTECT CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. (B) COULD BE SATISFACTORILY - AND PERHAPS PRODUCTIVELY - DEFUSED IF WE WERE IN DUE COURSE TO BE INSTRUCTED TO PROPOSE A US/UK EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS EXPERIMENTS WHICH BOTH SIDES WERE UNDERTAKING CO-OPERATIVELY WITH THE RUSSIANS.

5. THOUGH, GIVEN PARA 2(D) ABOVE, I DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT HE RAISE THE MATTER, IT MIGHT BE SENSIBLE FOR DCDS(S) TO BE DEFENSIVELY BRIEFED ON THE PROPOSED ANGLO-SOVIET AGREEMENT FOR HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT.

ACLAND

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ORWBAN 9961

LIMITED

HD/ESSD

HD/SDVD

HD/DEFD.

HD/ALDD

HD/NAD

PS

PS/MR RENTON

PS/MR EGGAR

PS/PVS

MR GILLMORE

MR COYD

MR THOMAS

MR BRAITHWAITE

MR FALL

MR RATFORD

MR SLATER

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SPACE RUCY

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