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UNCLASSIFIED

FM WASHINGTON 302130Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 805 OF 30 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK (DUS(P), AUS(D STAFF) DS 17) UKDEL NATO,  
MOSCOW, PARIS, BONN,

ROUTINE OTHER NATO POSTS, UKDEL VIENNA, UKDIS GENEVA, UKMIS NEW YORK,  
UKREP BRUSSELS, DUBLIN.

MIPT (NOT TO ALL): INF: NEW US PROPOSAL

1. THE PRESIDENT BEGAN HIS NATIONALLY TELEVISED STATEMENT THIS MORNING BY DRAWING ATTENTION ONCE MORE TO THE SOVIET MILITARY BUILD-UP OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. HE CRITICISED THEM FOR REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY IN GENEVA, AND FOR THE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO DRIVE WEDGES BETWEEN THE ALLIES. THE PRESIDENT THEN ANNOUNCED THAT NITZE HAD MADE NEW PROPOSALS, OF WHICH HE PROVIDED DETAILS, TO THE RUSSIANS IN GENEVA ON 28 MARCH. THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT WITH A TRIBUTE TO THE ALLIANCE AND TO THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS WHICH HAD FRAMED THE NEW US POSITION. THIS PROCESS WAS A MODEL FOR HOW A FREE ALLIANCE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER. THE FULL TEXT OF HIS STATEMENT COVERING THE NEW POSITION AND THE ALLIANCE WAS AS FOLLOWS.

2. 'I HAVE REPEATEDLY URGED THE SOVIETS TO RESPOND TO OUR ZERO-ZERO PROPOSAL WITH A PROPOSAL OF THEIR OWN. I HAVE ALSO REPEATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ANY SERIOUS ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL. THEIR FAILURE TO MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL IS A SOURCE OF DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT... BUT I DO NOT INTEND TO LET THIS SHADOW THAT HAS BEEN CAST OVER THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS FURTHER DARKEN OUR SEARCH FOR PEACE. WHEN IT COMES TO INTERMEDIATE NUCLEAR MISSILES IN EUROPE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE NONE THAN TO HAVE SOME. BUT, IF THERE MUST BE SOME, IT IS BETTER TO HAVE FEW THAN TO HAVE MANY. IF THE SOVIETS WILL NOT NOW AGREE TO THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF THESE WEAPONS, I HOPE THEY WILL AGREE TO JOIN US IN AN INTERIM AGREEMENT THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THESE FORCES TO EQUAL LEVELS ON BOTH SIDES.

TO THIS END AMBASSADOR PAUL NITZE HAS INFORMED HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE AN INTERIM AGREEMENT IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE ITS PLANNED DEPLOYMENT OF PERSHING II AND GROUND-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES PROVIDED THE SOVIET UNION REDUCED THE NUMBER OF ITS WARHEADS ON LONGER-RANGE INF MISSILES TO AN EQUAL LEVEL ON A GLOBAL BASIS. AMBASSADOR NITZE HAS EXPLAINED THAT THE UNITED STATES VIEWS THIS PROPOSAL AS A SERIOUS INITIAL STEP TOWARDS THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF THIS CLASS OF WEAPONS.... OUR PROPOSAL FOR THE ENTIRE ELIMINATION OF THESE SYSTEMS REMAINS ON THE TABLE. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE NEGOTIATORS RESUME SEVERAL WEEKS EARLIER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED. THE SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO THAT AND TALKS WILL RESUME ON MAY 17.'

3. 'I INVITED THE NATO AMBASSADORS HERE TODAY NOT ONLY TO REVIEW THESE DEVELOPMENTS BUT TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE FIRM SUPPORT WHICH THE ALLIES HAVE GIVEN TO OUR NEGOTIATING EFFORT IN GENEVA. AND I CAN ASSURE THEM OF MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS WITH THEM ON INF. THIS CONSULTATION PROCESS HAS ALREADY PROVEN ONE OF THE MOST INTENSIVE AND PRODUCTIVE IN THE HISTORY OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. IT HAS MADE THE INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED TODAY AN ALLIANCE INITIATIVE IN THE BEST SENSE OF THAT TERM. OVER THE PAST MONTHS WE AND OUR ALLIES HAVE CONSULTED INTENSIVELY ON THE INF NEGOTIATIONS.... THE NATO SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP HAS MET REGULARLY TO REVIEW THE NEGOTIATIONS AND CONSIDER CRITERIA WHICH SHOULD FORM THE BASIS OF THE ALLIANCE POSITION IN INF. THEY VERY THOUGHTFUL VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE ALLIES IN THESE CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN OF SIGNIFICANT HELP IN SHAPING THIS NEW INITIATIVE. THIS PROCESS IS A MODEL OF HOW AN ALLIANCE OF FREE AND DEMOCRATIC NATIONS CAN AND MUST WORK TOGETHER ON POLITICAL ISSUES. IT IS THE SOURCE OF OUR UNITY AND GIVES US THE STRENGTH THAT NO-ONE CAN HOPE TO MATCH. AND IT GIVES ME GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE EVENTUAL SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS IN GENEVA TO CREATE A SAFER WORLD FOR ALL THE EARTH'S PEOPLE''.

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FM WASHINGTON 302120Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 803 OF 30 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO, BONN, PARIS

INFO SAVING OTHER NATO POSTS, MOSCOW

MY TELNO 800: INF

1. THE PRESIDENT CERTAINLY PUT ON THE DOG THIS MORNING TO ENABLE HIM TO MAKE HIS STATEMENT ON INF WITH THE MAXIMUM SYMBOLIC AND VISUAL DEMONSTRATION OF ALLIED UNITY. AND, INCIDENTALLY, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE WAS IN CHARGE.

2. FIRST THE AMBASSADORS/CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE NATO ALLIANCE WERE SUMMONED TO THE CABINET ROOM AT THE WHITE HOUSE. THE PRESIDENT WAS JOINED ON HIS SIDE OF THE TABLE BY THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND OF DEFENSE AND THE WHOLE TOP HAMPER OF THE WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS: MEESE, BAKER AND CLARK. LESSER MORTALS OCCUPIED THE OUTER CIRCLE.

AFTER A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY, THE PRESIDENT MADE A STATEMENT TELLING US WHAT WE KNEW NITZE HAD BEEN AUTHORISED TO PUT FORWARD AT GENEVA AND PRAISING THE ALLIED CONSULTATIONS WHICH HAD LED UP TO IT AND THE ALLIED UNITY WHICH LENT IT AUTHORITY. INVITED BY THE PRESIDENT TO SPEAK, SECRETARY SHULTZ THEN DELIVERED A SHORT COMMENTARY ON THE MERITS OF ALLIED CONSULTATIONS AND UNITY IN DEFENCE OF SHARED DEMOCRATIC VALUES. THE TASK OF MAKING A SHORT REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE ASSEMBLED AMBASSADORS FELL TO THE DEAN OF THE NATO AMBASSADORS, THE AMBASSADOR OF LUXEMBOURG.

3. WE WERE THEN ESCORTED TO THE EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE WHERE AN EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WERE ASSEMBLED, INCLUDING MOST OF THE CABINET AND PRACTICALLY THE WHOLE OF THE TOP HAMPER OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. THERE WAS OF COURSE THE USUAL IMPRESSIVE BARRAGE OF TELEVISION CAMERAS. THE PRESIDENT THEN JOINED US AND MADE HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT IN OUR PRESENCE (SEE MY SECOND IFT). AFTER A CUP OF COFFEE WE ALL LEFT.

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4. THERE WAS OF COURSE AN ELEMENT OF THEATRE IN ALL THIS. BUT  
IT CERTAINLY SERVED ITS PURPOSE IN SYMBOLISING AND MAKING PUBLIC  
ALLIED UNITY ON THE NEXT STAGE IN THE INF SAGA. AS AN OLD HAM MYSELF,  
I WAS IMPRESSED. PLEASE SEE MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM.

FCO PASS SAVING ANKARA, LUXEMBOURG, THE HAGUE, ATHENS, COPENHAGEN  
OTTAWA, ROME, BRUSSELS, LISBON, OSLO, REYKJAVIK, UKDEL VIENNA AND  
MOSCOW

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(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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