

CONFIDENTIAL

GR 300

CHINA  
2

Prime Minister

6/24/5

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MOSCOW 221445Z MAY 79

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 299 OF 22 MAY.

INFO PEKING, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO,  
TOKYO, DELHI, ULAN BATOR.

[Ulan]

PEKING TELNO 450: SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS.

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC REACTION HERE TO THE CHINESE MEMORANDUM OF 5 MAY. KAPITSA, (HEAD OF THE SOVIET MFA FAR EASTERN DEPT) TOLD ME TODAY THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE PREPARED TO TALK IF THE CHINESE SERIOUSLY WISHED TO REACH AGREEMENT, BUT THAT THEY REMAINED SCEPTICAL. THE CHINESE INDICATION OF READINESS TO NEGOTIATE PRINCIPLES OF MUTUAL RELATIONS MIGHT SOUND PROMISING, BUT CHINESE GOOD FAITH WAS CALLED INTO QUESTION BY THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF AGREEING TO DISCONTINUE HOSTILE PROPAGANDA. THE RUSSIANS HAD ONCE BEFORE ENTERED TALKS (ON THE BORDER QUESTION) ONLY TO BE FACED WITH A CHINESE ATTEMPT TO BROADEN THE DISCUSSIONS TO SUCH AN EXTENT AS TO MAKE THEM WORTHLESS. THE RUSSIANS WOULD GIVE VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE NEXT MOVE.

2. MORE GENERALLY ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS, KAPITSA BELIEVED THERE WOULD BE IMPROVEMENT, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE LIMITED: HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION WAS THE ONLY CURRENCY IN WHICH CHINA COULD PAY FOR THE FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT OF THE WEST, AND THE CLOSENESS OF THE SINO-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WOULD NOT EXCEED THAT OF THE CURRENT US-SOVIET ONE.

KEEBLE

FCO/WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

FED

CONFIDENTIAL