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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 796 OF 18 JUL

INFO ROUTINE PARIS, BONN, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKDEL MADRID,
UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO SAVING TO WARSAW, STOCKHOLM, BERNE, UKDEL STRASBOURG

PRAVDA ARTICLE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. PRAVDA OF 18 JULY CARRIED A FULL-PAGE UNSIGNED ARTICLE UNDER THE HEADING 'HUMAN RIGHTS - GENUINE AND SHAM'.
2. THE ARTICLE TRACES THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN 'ANTI-COMMUNIST CRUSADE' FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER TO PROJECT DEMOCRACY AND PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SPEECH IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT IN JUNE LAST YEAR. REAGAN'S CRUSADE IS SAID TO BE AIMED AT EXHAUSTING SOCIALIST COUNTRIES BY 'ACCELERATING THE ARMS RACE, ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE, POLITICAL PRESSURE, ESPIONAGE AND OPEN, EVEN MILITARY BLACKMAIL'.
3. PRAVDA GOES ON TO EXTOL AT LENGTH THE 'SOVIET RECORD IN HUMAN RIGHTS BY THEIR DEFINITION (FULL EMPLOYMENT, CHEAP HOUSING, MASS PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS): INCLUDING POLITICAL FREEDOMS (OF ASSEMBLY, CONSCIENCE, TO DEMONSTRATE AND CRITICISE), CLAIMING THAT SECRECY OF CORRESPONDENCE AND TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS ARE GUARANTEED. THE ARTICLE DISMISSES ALLEGATIONS ABOUT PERSECUTION OF DISSIDENTS AS CRUDE SLANDER.
4. SOVIET ACHIEVEMENTS ARE CONTRASTED WITH A CATALOGUE OF SINS BESSETTING US SOCIETY (UNEMPLOYMENT, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ANTI-SEMITISM, SUPPRESSION OF TRADE UNIONS ETC) PREFACED WITH JIBE ABOUT 'REAGANGATE'. THE FRG AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE CRITICISED MORE BRIEFLY: THE UK FOR UNEMPLOYMENT, FOR 'SURVEILLANCE BY THE SPECIAL SERVICES OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF BRITISH CITIZENS', AND FOR THE DENIAL OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TO THE CATHOLIC POPULATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND, WHERE 'TERROR AND ARBITRARY BEHAVIOUR BY THE AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO REIGN'.
5. PRAVDA ACCUSES 'IMPERIALIST AGENTS' OF HAVING PREPARED A 'COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY PLOT' IN POLAND UNDER COVER OF SLOGANS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. 'THE USSR AND FRATERNAL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WOULD NEVER PERMIT SUCH SCENARIOS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BUT WOULD DEFEND THEIR SOCIAL GAINS 'ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF IDEAS OR, IF FORCED TO IT, WITH ARMS'.

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~~BY~~ THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY ASSERTING THAT THE SOVIET PEOPLE CONSIDER IT THEIR INTERNATIONAL DUTY TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD: "...THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST CALL TO ACCOUNT THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE IMPERIALIST STATES GUILTY OF MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS" AND FORCE THE UNITED STATES "TO ADHERE TO HUMANITARIAN OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE UN CHARTER, THE FINAL ACT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS." THE UNITED STATES AND A NUMBER OF ITS ALLIES SHOULD BE PRESSED TO RATIFY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH THEY HAVE SO FAR AVOIDED DOING. IN THE BATTLE FOR PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS "THE SOVIET UNION, THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND THE COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES ARE AS ALWAYS IN THE VANGUARD".

COMMENT.

7. THE SELECTIVE DEFINITION OF WHAT IN SOVIET PARLANCE CONSTITUTE THE PRIMARY HUMAN RIGHTS IS IN STANDARD TERMS. THE TIMING OF THE ARTICLE IS CLEARLY DESIGNED TO COINCIDE WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE MADRID CSCE MEETING. DISMISSING CRITICISMS THERE OF THE SOVIET RECORD, IT LAUNCHES INTO A DETAILED AND TENDENTIOUS COUNTER-ATTACK AND AS SUCH IS IN LINE WITH THE CALL FOR A BROAD COUNTER-PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE VOICED AT THE JUNE PLENUM ON IDEOLOGY. IT OFFERS A FORETASTE OF THE KIND OF BRIEF WHICH THE RUSSIANS ARE LIKELY TO BRING TO THE HUMAN CONTACTS EXPERTS MEETING (MCEM).

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES

SUTHERLAND

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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