

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

PS
 PS/LADY YOUNG
 PS/MR LUCE
 PS/PUS
 MR DEREK THOMAS
 MR GOODALL
 MR JENKINS
 MR WESTON
 MR DAVID THOMAS

HD/DEFENCE D
 HD/ACDD
 HD/SOVIET D

RESIDENT CLERK

MR POWELL, NO 10 DOWNING ST

MR D NICHOLLS, DUS(P) } MOD
 F. NPS }
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GR 190

RESTRICTED

FM MOSCOW 251325Z JAN 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 108 OF 25TH JAN 85

INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDIS GENEVA,
 MODUK (FOR DS17)

US/SOVIET RELATIONS: FOLLOW-UP TO GENEVA.

1. US AMBASSADOR HARTMAN TOLD ME ON 23 JANUARY THAT THE AMERICANS HAD NOT YET HAD ANY REPLY TO THEIR PROPOSAL OF EARLY MARCH IN GENEVA FOR THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS. NOR HAD THEY BEEN ADVISED OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE SOVIET TEAM.

2. HOWEVER, THE SOVIET REPLY MAY NOW BE IMMINENT. THE RUSSIANS EARLIER HINTED TO THE AMERICANS THAT IT HAD BEEN DELAYED BY THE FACT THAT THE POLITBURO DID NOT HOLD ITS REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING ON 17 JANUARY. PRAYDA OF 25 JANUARY REPORTS THAT THE POLITBURO HAS NOW DISCUSSED PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING US/SOVIET TALKS AND TAKEN DECISIONS ON, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ORGANISATION OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION. SUKHODREV, GROMYKO'S INTERPRETER, HAS TOLD ME THAT THE LEADING OFFICIALS HAD BEEN SELECTED SOMETIME AGO, BUT DID NOT DIVULGE THEIR NAMES.

3. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE RUSSIANS WILL AGREE TO THE TIME AND PLACE PROPOSED BY WASHINGTON BUT, DESPITE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE CZECHS (CHNOUPEK TO THE US AMBASSADOR IN PRAGUE) THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE THINKING OF A TIMETABLE IN WHICH TALKS WOULD NOT START FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, THE AMERICANS HERE DO NOT EXPECT THE RUSSIANS TO DRAG THEIR FEET.

SUTHERLAND

BT