

Recopy to Mr Powell
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TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW
TELNO 1123
OF 251530 NOVEMBER 85
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON

GENEVA SUMMIT: CALL BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON MR RENTON

1. O'ER THE WEEKEND, THE SOVIET EMBASSY ASKED FOR A CALL BY POPOV ON THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE GENEVA SUMMIT. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH NO.10, IT WAS DECIDED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF MR RIFKIND, POPOV SHOULD CALL UPON MR RENTON AT 1200 ON 25 NOVEMBER.

2. READING FROM A PREPARED TEXT, POPOV SAID HE WISHED TO GIVE HMG A SHORT ACCOUNT OF SOVIET VIEWS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE SUMMIT. THE SOVIET UNION HE CLAIMED HAD BEEN SERIOUS FROM THE BEGINNING, DESIROUS OF PRACTICAL RESULTS AND HAD THEREFORE MADE MANY FAR-REACHING PROPOSALS. AS A RESULT OF THE SUMMIT THE SOVIET SIDE HOPED FOR A RADICALLY NEW APPROACH TO US/SOVIET RELATIONS ON THE WESTERN SIDE: IN PARTICULAR IT WAS HOPED THAT THE US WOULD WEIGH CAREFULLY IN THE LIGHT OF GENEVA WHETHER IT WAS IN THEIR INTERESTS TO CREATE A DANGEROUS SITUATION IN SPACE. POPOV DREW ATTENTION TO TWO POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE SUMMIT - THE AGREED STATEMENT THAT NEITHER SIDE WOULD SEEK MILITARY SUPERIORITY AND THE NEED TO PREVENT ANY WAR BETWEEN THEM, NUCLEAR OR CONVENTIONAL. HE REFERRED BRIEFLY TO THE EXCHANGE ON REGIONAL MATTERS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A 'GENERAL PRINCIPALLED DISCUSSION'. HE ALSO WELCQMED THE RECOGNITION THAT MUTUAL CO-OPERATION ON THERMO-

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NUCLEAR FUSION WOULD BE OF BENEFIT. THE SOVIET UNION HOPED THAT THE US WOULD DRAW PRACTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

3. MR RENTON SAID THAT THE SUMMIT HAD BEEN AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP. THE ATMOSPHERE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY AND GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS. ON ARMS CONTROL HE HOPED THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE NOW CLEAR THAT THE US DID NOT SEEK MILITARY SUPERIORITY OR A NUCLEAR FIRST STRIKE CAPACITY OVER THE SOVIET UNION, AND THAT THE CONCEPT OF A DEFENSIVE SHIELD COMMANDED CONSIDERABLE POPULAR SUPPORT IN THE UNITED STATES. MR RENTON WELCOMED THE MENTION IN THE JOINT STATEMENT OF THE IDEA OF AN INTERIM INF AGREEMENT. WE HAD ALSO NOTED COMMENTS ON CHEMICAL WARFARE AND MBFR. MR RENTON SAID HE HAD GATHERED THERE HAD BEEN A LONG DISCUSSION ON AFGHANISTAN: HE HOPED THAT THIS PRESAGED PROGRESS WITH THE UN INITIATIVE.

4. POPOV REPLIED THAT THE UN INITIATIVE HAD BEEN ON THE POINT OF A SOLUTION TWO YEARS AGO, BUT WESTERN INTERESTS HAD PREVENTED THIS. HOWEVER, BETTER SOVIET/US RELATIONS WOULD HELP. HE ALSO REFERRED TO SOME USEFUL US/SOVIET BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AT THE SUMMIT. HE HOPED THAT THESE WOULD ACT AS AN EXAMPLE FOR UK/SOVIET RELATIONS (ON WHICH HE QUOTED GORBACHEV'S FORMULATION USED IN PARIS OF THE SOVIET SIDE HAVING AS GREAT AN INTEREST AS THE BRITISH IN BETTER RELATIONS).

5. MR RENTON SAID THAT THE BRITISH SIDE DID INDEED WANT BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS: ANOTHER ASPECT OF THIS WAS, HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT YOU HAD BEEN WAITING FOR SOME TIME TO MAKE CALLS ON SHEVARDNADZE AND OTHER SENIOR SOVIET FIGURES. MR RENTON HOPED THAT THIS CALL WOULD SHORTLY GO FORWARD AND ALSO THAT SHEVARDNADZE WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT THE UK IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION THAT I HAD ALREADY EXTENDED. THIS WAS ALL PART OF THE PROCESS OF THICKENING UP RELATIONS.

6. AFTER A PREDICTABLE EXCHANGE ON SDI RESEARCH, THE MEETING ENDED WITH POPOV MAKING AN OBSCURE REFERENCE TO PLANNING STAFF TALKS IN THE CONTEXT OF SAYING THAT HE WOULD REPORT MR RENTON'S REMARKS ON YOUR ACCESS TO SHEVARDNADZE. A SUBSEQUENT TELEPHONE CALL TO THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, REVEALED THAT THEY DID NOT YET HAVE DATES TO

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PROPOSE FOR PLANNING STAFF TALKS.

7. FINALLY, POPOV HANDED OVER A TEXT WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS
SETTING OUT SOME SOVIET VIEWS ON THE SUMMIT, FURTHER TO THOSE
EXPRESSED BY GORBACHEV AT HIS GENEVA PRESS CONFERENCE. (COPY
TO YOU BY BAG - THEY CONTAIN NOTHING ORIGINAL).

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PLANNING ST.

PS

PS/MR RENTON

PS/MR RIFKIND

MR DEREK THOMAS

MR DAUNT

DEFENCE DEPT

ACDD

PLANNING STAFF