

GRS 350
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FM WASHINGTON
TU PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 248
OF 050210Z FEBRUARY 87
INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW

MOSCOW TELNO 137: GENEVA NST

1. ADMINISTRATION BRIEFINGS HERE ARE SIMILARLY UPBEAT ON IMPROVED PROCEDURES AND ATMOSPHERE AT GENEVA (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, PARA 2 OF OUR TELNO 215). BUT SOURCES HERE ARE CAREFUL TO ADD THAT PROGRESS ON SUBSTANCE HAS SO FAR BEEN SLIGHT.
2. NONE OF OUR CONTACTS HAVE SPECULATED ABOUT THE TIMING OF POSSIBLE FUTURE SHULTZ/SHEVARDNADZE, OR SUMMIT, MEETINGS.
3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TODAY'S UK PRESS CARRIES SOME SPECULATION ABOUT A SUMMIT BY THE SUMMER, AND THAT THIS IS BASED ON AN OFF-THE-RECORD BRIEFING BY PERLE IN LONDON EARLIER THIS WEEK. PERLE TELLS US THAT HE DID NOT SAY THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE HINTING IN GENEVA, OR THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY DIRECT MOSCOW/WASHINGTON MESSAGE, ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER SUMMIT: NEITHER STATEMENT WOULD BE CORRECT. NOR IS HE AWARE OF ANY PLAN FOR A SHULTZ/SHEVARDNADZE MEETING. PERLE CLAIMS THAT WHAT HE DID SAY WAS THAT THE RUSSIANS' POST-REYKJAVIK TACTICS HAVING FAILED - SINCE THE ALLIES HAVE NOT URGED THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON SDI - GORBACHEV WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE TO SEEK ANOTHER SUMMIT AT SOME STAGE, UNLESS HE WERE TO DETECT THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION'S DETERMINATION AND ABILITY TO PRESS ON WITH SDI HAD WEAKENED. (IN SHORT, HIS REMARKS WERE INTENDED TO BE PART OF THE WEINBERGER QUOTE EARLY DEPLOYMENT UNQUOTE CAMPAIGN.)
4. WE HAVE CHECKED IN STATE AND NSC ON THE POSITION ON SUMMITS. STATE CONFIRM THAT, WHILE THE US INVITATION REMAINS ON THE TABLE, THERE HAS BEEN NO RECENT SPECIFIC DISCUSSION WITH MOSCOW ABOUT TIMING, AND NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT A SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS IMMINENT. ERMATH (NSC) SAYS THE SAME, ADDING THAT HE PERSONALLY IS SCEPTICAL OF RUMOURS OF A POSSIBLE SOVIET MOVE.

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