

UNCLASSIFIED  
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TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 935  
OF 311055Z MAY 89  
INFO ROUTINE CSCE POSTS, UKREP BRUSSELS, PEKING

MIPT 934: SOVIET UNION: CONGRESS OF PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES: DAY 5:  
GORBACHEV'S SPEECH: FOREIGN POLICY.

SUMMARY

1. THE MAIN THRUST OF SOVIET POLICY EXPANDED IN FAMILIAR TERMS. FURTHER DETAILS ON ROLE OF SUPREME SOVIET AND THE CONGRESS WILL PLAY IN FORMING POLICY.

DETAIL

2. GORBACHEV DEVOTED A RELATIVELY SHORT SECTION OF HIS SPEECH TO FOREIGN POLICY. HE BEGAN WITH A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF NEW THINKING. ITS ACHIEVEMENTS WERE LISTED. UNUSUALLY HE COMMENTED ON THE FACT THAT THERE WERE STILL HANGOVERS FROM THE PAST AND QUOTE THEREFORE WE CAN NOT DENY OURSELVES AN ARMY AND ABANDON WEAPONS. THE SAME GOES FOR MILITARY ALLIANCES, WHOSE PRESERVATION DOES NOT DEPEND ON US ALONE UNQUOTE.

3. GORBACHEV SAID THAT SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY WAS DIRECTED TO THE ENTIRE WORLD. HE AGAIN GAVE PRIMACY TO RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THE NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA WAS AN EVENT OF WORLD SIGNIFICANCE. THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES IN FORMING A NEW TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, WHICH STEMMED FROM THE COMPLEX PROCESSES UNDERWAY IN THE DIFFERENT STATES. THIS COULD BE OVERCOME BY MUTUAL RESPECT, NON INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S AFFAIRS, DEEP INTEREST IN THE EXPERIENCE OF EACH AND A READINESS FOR COMMON TOLERANT WORK.

4. GORBACHEV TALKED IN VAGUE TERMS ABOUT SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMON EUROPEAN HOUSE, AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE QUOTE VLADIVOSTOCK LINE UNQUOTE AND ASIA-PACIFIC AFFAIRS. THERE WERE LOWER KEY REFERENCES TO RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA.

5. GORBACHEV OUTLINED FIVE QUOTE THESES UNQUOTE OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. FIRST, NATIONAL SECURITY SHOULD BE GUARANTEED PRIMARILY BY POLITICAL MEANS. SECOND, NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD BE REDUCED AS A RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE DEFENSIVE

POTENTIAL OF STATES TO LIMITS OF REASONABLE SUFFICIENCY. THIRD, THE USE OR THREAT OF FORCE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES WAS UNACCEPTABLE: SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY HAD TO BE RESPECTED. FOURTH, INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND CONFLICTS COULD ONLY BE RESOLVED BY DIALOGUE BASED ON THE BALANCE OF INTERESTS. FIFTH, THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP WANTED TO INCLUDE THE SOVIET ECONOMY IN WITH ALL THE WORLD ON A BASIS WHICH WAS MUTUALLY PROFITABLE AND EQUAL: THEY WOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN DRAWING UP AND ABSOLVING THE REGULATIONS OF THE CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOUR, OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES AND OPPORTUNITY.

6. GORBACHEV SAID THAT IN THE PAST, THE PRACTICE OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY HAD RUN COUNTER TO THE QUOTE HIGH PRINCIPLES OF SOCIALIST FOREIGN POLICY UNQUOTE. VARIOUS ACTIONS HAD BEEN COMMITTED WHICH HAD MEANT A SERIOUS LOSS TO THE COUNTRY. THIS WAS THE RESULT OF THE COMMAND-ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM. ONE OF THE IMPORTANT TASKS OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL REFORM WAS TO PREVENT THIS HAPPENING AGAIN. IN FUTURE, ALL SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY WOULD ONLY BE TAKEN AFTER THOROUGH CONSIDERATION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET AND ITS COMMISSIONS. THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE, FOR EXAMPLE DECISIONS ON RELATIONS WITH ALLIES OR THE CONCLUSION OF TREATIES, SHOULD ALSO BE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CONGRESS OF PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES. THESE REMARKS WERE GREETED WITH APPLAUSE.

7. GORBACHEV EXPLAINED THAT THE CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL BY THE CONGRESS OF THESE IDEAS WAS NOT ONLY LEGALLY SIGNIFICANT BUT ALSO POLITICALLY. QUOTE FAR FROM EVERYBODY IN THE WEST BELIEVES THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN THIS COURSE FOR EVER AND DO NOT INTEND TO CHANGE IT. EVEN HERE, THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE FUNDAMENTAL ESSENCE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY. SOME PEOPLE REGARD IT AS A TACTIC, A TEMPORARY ZIG-ZAG OR EVEN AS A CONCESSION TO THE WEST. I THEREFORE WANT TO UNDERLINE THAT THIS IS OUR DEEPLY ROOTED STRATEGIC LINE, EXPRESSING THE INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE, AND WE BELIEVE MEETING THE INTERESTS OF MANKIND. UNQUOTE..

BRAITHWAITE

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