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FM MOSCOW AMENDED DISTRIBUTION 28/6  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 1182  
OF 270925Z JUNE 90  
INFO ROUTINE PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON, ACTOR

MY TELNO 1174 (NOT TO ALL) : POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF  
THE CPSU CONGRESS

## SUMMARY

1. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE EVENING OF 26 JUNE, YELTSIN CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT A POSTPONEMENT OF THE CPSU CONGRESS IS BEING CANVASSED. HE SAID THE DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN AT A CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM WHERE THERE WOULD BE A 'REAL STRUGGLE'. SOME PEOPLE, INFECTED BY THE MOOD OF THE RUSSIAN PARTY CONGRESS, DID NOT WANT A POSTPONEMENT: OTHERS HOPED THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO STABILISE THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE BY PUTTING THE CONGRESS BACK PERHAPS UNTIL THE AUTUMN.
2. YELTSIN SAID THAT HE, PERSONALLY, FAVOURED POSTPONEMENT, SO THAT THERE COULD BE PROPER PREPARATIONS. THE RUSSIAN PARTY CONGRESS HAD BEEN HELD WITH TOO MUCH HASTE. HE ADDED THAT GORBACHEV WAS TOO TAKEN UP WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE PRESIDENCY AND HAD NOT DEVOTED ENOUGH TIME TO THE RUSSIAN CONGRESS. THIS WAS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE OUTCOME. THIS, HE SAID, CONFIRMED HIS VIEW THAT THE PARTY LEADERSHIP AND PRESIDENCY SHOULD NOT BE HELD BY ONE PERSON.
3. YURI LEBEDEV, A SENIOR CPSU CENTRAL OFFICIAL ALSO SPOKE TO JOURNALISTS YESTERDAY OF THE POSTPONEMENT, AND ALSO LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT IT WAS GORBACHEV WHO WAS BEHIND THE PROPOSAL. THE RIGHT WING IN THE PARTY, HE SAID, WOULD HAVE LITTLE REASON TO ARGUE FOR POSTPONEMENT.
3. THIS MORNINGS PRAVDA (27 JUNE) REPORTED PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONGRESS TAKING PART AS NORMAL, AND GAVE NO INDICATION THAT POSTPONEMENT MIGHT BE IN THE AIR. BUT THIS IS HARDLY SURPRISING.

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