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UNCLASSIFIED

FROM MOSCOW 231230Z SEPTEMBER

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1064 OF 23 SEPTEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON , MODUK (FOR DS17) AND UKDEL NATO

INFO ROUTINE PARIS, BONN, ROME, BRUSSELS, UKDIS GENEVA AND UKDEL VIENNA

INF : NEW AMERICAN PROPOSALS : SOVIET COMMENT.

SUMMARY.

1. THE ENGLISH SERVICE OF TASS HAS RESPONDED NEGATIVELY TO REAGAN'S NOTIFICATION OF NEW U S INITIATIVES AT THE INF NEGOTIATIONS.

DETAIL.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS OF A 22 SEPTEMBER TASS PIECE BY " MILITARY WRITER " BOGACHYOV :-

(A) THE DETAILS OF THE NEW PROPOSALS HAD NOT BEEN REVEALED,

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2. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS OF A 22 SEPTEMBER TASS PIECE BY " MILITARY WRITER " BOGACHYOV :-

- (A) THE DETAILS OF THE NEW PROPOSALS HAD NOT BEEN REVEALED, BUT REMARKS BY THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN AND OTHER REPORTS SUGGEST THEY WOULD GIVE NATO AN ADVANTAGE OF AT LEAST 200 DELIVERY VEHICLES, INCLUDING 162 NUCLEAR MISSILES OF NATO'S EUROPEAN MEMBERS.
- (B) THE U S CONTINUED TO REJECT THE PRINCIPLE ADVANCED BY THE SOVIET UNION OF ABSOLUTE EQUALITY IN NUMBERS OF MISSILES, PLANES, AND " ROUNDS OF NUCLEAR AMMUNITION " ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT.
- (C) THE AMERICANS WANTED AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT DEPLOYMENT OF PERSHING AND CRUISE " IN DIRECT PROXIMITY " TO THE TERRITORY OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND UPSET THE PRESENT BALANCE OF FORCES IN EUROPE. A REAGAN-STYLE AGREEMENT WOULD PRECLUDE THE SOVIET UNION FROM STATIONING ITS OWN NUCLEAR SYSTEMS IN THE SAME PROXIMITY TO U S TERRITORY.
- (D) REAGAN WAS NOW READY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE INF TALKS SHOULD DEAL " ABOVE ALL WITH NUCLEAR SYSTEMS IN EUROPE AND NOT IN ASIA, AFRICA OR THE NORTH POLE ". BUT HE STILL REJECTED THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR BOTH PARTIES, AS ALSO THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUI-DISTANCE OF U S AND SOVIET MEDIUM-RANGE SYSTEMS FROM TERRITORY, RESPECTIVELY , OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES. IF HIS PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED, AMERICAN MISSILES DEPLOYED IN EUROPE WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH SOVIET TARGETS IN LESS THAN SIX MINUTES, WHEREAS SIMILAR SOVIET MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REACH TARGETS AT ALL IN THE UNITED STATES. REAGAN'S NEW PROPOSALS CONTAINED THE " CONTOURS OF THE OLD U S CONCEPTION " OF A NUCLEAR WAR LIMITED TO EUROPE.
- (E) BY EXCLUDING THE BRITISH AND FRENCH SYSTEMS, REAGAN WANTED THE SOVIET UNION TO GIVE ITS BLESSING TO NATO'S SUPERIORITY OVER THE WARSAW PACT. HIS NEW PROPOSAL SMELT STRONGLY OF THE " OLD, ODIUS PSEUDO-ZERO OPTION ".
- (F) THERE WAS EVERY INDICATION THAT WASHINGTON'S MAIN AIM REMAINED DEPLOYMENT AT WHATEVER COST OF PERSHING AND CRUISE. REAGAN WAS MORE CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC RELATIONS THAN WITH REAL PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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