December 13, 1983

NEORMATLON
MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCGARLANE
FROM:

SUBJECT: American Academic on Soviet policy

The telegram from Moscow I mentioned this morning is attached at Tab 1. It reports on the observations of an experienced American academic who spent about ten days in discussions with senior Soviet officials, including Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the Politburo and head of the Central Committee's International Department, and several other party and Institute officials not often seen by Americans.

Among the source's conclusions were:
--Fear of war seemed to affect the elite as well as the man on the street.
--A degree of paranoia seemed rampant among high officials, and the danger of irrational elements in Soviet decision making seems higher.

- The election next year seems to have become a key determinant in soviet foreign policy making, with the aim not to permit the president to assume the role of peacemaker.
--There seems to be a growing climate of neo-Stalinism and outright chauvinism on the lower levels of the bureaucracy.

The scholar also was told that Andropov had directed a more activist role in the Middle East, and that Andropov is
increasingly seeking to take control over foreign policy and to undermine Gromyko.

Paragraphs 2-11 are the most relevant ones in the long cable.

Attachment:
Mab I Moscow telegram 15409 of December 10, 1983.

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TMES: FGOV, FREL, ECON, PHND, UR
SUEIECT: AMERXCAN ACADEMTC ON SOVIET FOREIGN AND
            BOMESTIC POLICY
1. We-ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMABY: AN AMEFICAN ACADEMIC WITH EXCELLENT ENTREE
TO THE SDW'ET WOLITICAL ELITE ERIEFED EMEASEY ON HIS
DL5CUSSIONS HERE NOVEMSER 2E-DECEMSER 8. HE #ELIEVES.
EASED ON THESE DISCUSSHONS, TMAT A SIGNIFMCANT SHTFT HAS
TAKEN PLACE IN SOVIET THRNKING AND ATTTTUOES, ESPECIALLY
TOWAROS THE U.S., OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS. WHERE
EARLIER SOVLET DECISNON-MAKINC WAS EDUNDED ALMOST
EXCLUSYUELY SN ERAGMATISM AND REASONED CALCULATION
TE SOVIET MNIENESTS, EMOTIGNLLTIQ LND EVEN TRIATIONALITY
ARE NLW ENTERING INTO PL,AY
GOWING PARANCPA AMONO SOVIET OFFICNALS, AND SEES THEM
LTERALLY OEEESESD EY EEAG OE WAR HE SELIEVES THAT
THE U.S. PRESTOENTIAL ELECTMONS HAVE EECOME THE CENTRAL
OETERMINING FACTOR IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICT.
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3. THE ACADEMIC HAS NOTED FURTHER, A CERTANN SENSE OF LEADERLESSNESS ANO A LACK OF AN INTECRATED FOREMGN POLTCY WHICH HE ATTRIBUTES TO ANDROPOV S LENGTHY ABSENCE FROM THE SCEME ANO THE UNCERTAIMTY THTS HAS GENERATED. HE FEELS THAT THERE AEE SIGNIFTCANT DFFERENEES WITHXN THE LEADERSHYP--PARTYCULARLY ON


 PROCRAMS, AND AMTHCIFATES THAT ANDROPDV WRLL SHORTLY ATTEMFT TO OVERCOME THTS OPPOSITUON THPCUGH WHDESPREAD
 LOWER PARTY LEVELS ALTHOUGH THE ACADEMTC SENSED THE
 AS HE HAD DURTNG A FKEVIOUS YISHT IN MAY OH THE NECESSITY FOR ECONOMIC CMANGE, HE DETEGTED MUCH LESS OETIMHSH
 CUQRENT MMUASSE CDULD GE REALTZED HIS OWM GELUEF STHAT THE READEDSHIF IS EITHER UNWIHE NO OR UNABLE TO PU能SUE OTHER THAN A GRADUAK UNCREMENTAL ADPROACM TO ECDNDMC CMAMGE, AWh THAT EACH gMALE STEP WILE BE


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4, THE NCMDEMTCS NNTEPLOCUTORS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
ANDROFOV WAD UNDEFGONE AN OPER&TION GUT CEAFMED THAT
HE W&5 NOW EACK AT WORK ASEEIT ON A SOMEWHAT &IMTTED
SCHEDULE. THE ACADEMYC GAYNED THE TMPRESSION THAT
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THE LATTER'S LSSENCE: CMERNENKO HAD GEEN COMPLETEEY
#YMASSED END SUMOAGY
S.THE MCADEMIC TDENTMFZMD THREE MAJOR CURRENTS IN
SOVIET TMZNKING THAT HAD %MERCED SNNCE HIS VYSYT HERE NM
MAY:
~- A GENLNE SENSE OF CONCEPN OVES TRENDS ON THE INTEE-
NATIONAL STAGE AND A EEAF DE WAE THAT, SNENED OCEE STGEEG
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EVIDENTHT THE RAUON GISTRICTH LEVEL ANO AMONGST THE
YOUNGER GENEFATION FED EY SYGONS FEELINGS OF PATRTQTISM
AND EVEN GHAUVINISM. THERE FG A GRONING SENSE THAT THE
OVIET पHION G EETNG PUSHED AERUNLEY THEU,5, ANO THAT
RESOURCES MUST EE MOETLIZED TO COUNTERACT THTS THREAT,
UTILTZZNG THE ADVANTAGES WHICH A CENTRALIZED ECONOMY
POSSESSES YN THTS MEGARD. THE COROLLARY TO THYS IS
THAT DOMESTIC ECONOMIC CHANGES CANNOT EE AFFDRDED AT THIS
TIME.
-M HIGH DEGREE OF PAEANDIA SNDNC HTGH QFFICTASS WITH
WMOM THE ACAOEMLC SPOKE, NOT UNLIKE THE ATMCSPHERE OF
THIRTY YEARS ACO. SINCE HTS MAY VISIT. THE ACADEMYC
HAS NOTYCED THAT ATTITUDES HAVE EECOME MOEE PEPSONAL AND
EMOTIONAL, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECTHTO THE U.S., AND HE
OID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIGILITY OF IREATIDNAL_ELENENTS
IN SOVIET DECISYON-MAKING HE CITED THE STPAIGHTFACED
CAIM MAUE TO HBM BY ONE OFFICIAL THAT THE KAL FLSGHT
HAD EEEN DELYEERATELY STAGED EY THE U.S. WNOT AS AN
NNTELLTGENCE FLIGHT--EUT TO PROVOKE THE USSR AND ANTI-
SOVIET FEELINGS IN THE WORLD.
G. THE ACADEMLC DECLARED THAT THE STATEMENT RECENTLY
MADE EY GRZEZTNSNI THAT THE SOVIETS "WOULD CRAWL EACK
TO THE NEGOTHAT界G TAGLE* WAS COMPLETELY INCONSISTENT
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STHUATHON "N &&ENOK ON THE ONE HAND. THE HOADEMIC
HEARE REDEATED EXNWESSNONS OF CONCERN OVER THE POSSN-
EM&YT OF & U.S - SOVEET C!MSH DVEP &EEANON, ON TME
CTHER.THE SOVKETS SEEMED TO DEQQVE "SATISFACTION"
FROM THE PQESENEE OF U.S. MARINE "HOSTAGES" TNLEEANON.
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G.S. AND, ULYzMATELY. MREATHNG ODMESTIC POLTTYGAL PROELEMS
FOF THE =&ESNDENT.
** THE SCHOL MR W&S TOLD THAT ANOROPOV HAD RECENTLY
MRITTEN & MEMOFANDUN ADDAESSED TO THE CENTRAL COMNITHEE
INTERNATIONAL DEPARWMENT IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY ASSERTED
THAT EOVIET POLICY IN THE MLDDLEEEST WSE TOP PASSIVE
AND EEACTEVE ZNS DLRECTED THAT THE SOVTET UNICD ILSE
TH TMLTLETNXE WFETHEH ANSTOFOV HAD IN MHND DIFLOMATIC
TR MTLTTGFY ACTIONE WAS UNCLEAR. THE SCHOLAR MAINTATNED
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11. THE AMEASSADOR SUGGESTED THREE FACTORS WHICH HE
THOUGHT COULD ACCOUNT FOR THE CHANGE IN THE ATMOSPHERE
AND ATTPTUDES WMYEH THE ACADEMTC HAD ENCOUNTERED HEPE:
THE TURN FOP THE WORSE IN ANORODOV S HKALTH. THE KAL
TNCIDENT, AND THE FEALITY OF THE INF DEPLOYMENTS. THE
ACADEMIG AGREED WTTH TMIS ASSESSMENT, LAYING PARTICULAR
STHESS ON THE FHFSH FACTOR. THERE HAD EEEN A GREAT
SENSE OF CONFIDENCE MMONGST HIS INTERLOCLTORS HALF
A YEAR AGO, ME SAID. A SENSE OF THE POSSIEILITY OF
POSITHVE CHANGE GECAUSE OF THE UNITY FORGES EY A STFONG
LEADER. ANOROPOV'S ABSENCE FROM THE SCENE FOR THE
LAST FEW MONTHS HAD PERMITTED DLFFEHENCES TO EMEGGE
AND HAD GENERATED A SENSE DF LEADERLESSNESS. WHETHES
ANDEDEOX COUHO AGATA ASEEET ETASELE AS THE STEONO
EACER WHOM ALL EEGIEVED WAS NESESSARX AND EEMTND WERM
ALL COLLD UNITE WAS FOR THE MOMENT EROBLEMATICAL.
ANDROPOV'S HEALTH
---------------------m---m
12. THE SCHOL & 距 C CONTACTE INOYCATED THAT THE GENEPAL
SECRETARY HAD UNDERGONE AN OPEFATION THE DATE AND
NATURE OF WHYCH WERE NOT SPECYFPED\ AND HAD EEEN
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EEGUPERATMNO AT HIS DACHA, HOWEVEP, MAJOR DECTSNONS
HAD EEEN SUEMTTTED TO HEM ANO RESOLUTWDNS HAD EEEN
WPITTEN UNDER HIS DIPECTION, DURNNG THES RECUPERATYVE
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GHERNENKO HAD EEEN CONPLETELY FYPASSED. ANDROPDV
GAT CONTYNUED TG MEET WLTH SENIOF FTGURES INDTVIOUALKY
WHEN HE MAD GEEN UNASLE TO ATTEND POLTMEURO MEFTINGS.
THE PEFTOL OF TIME DURTNG WHICH ANDTOPOV HAD NOT
ATTENDED HEESE MEETUNGS WAS UNEKEAN, 
13. AT ANY RATE. ACCORDYNG TO THE ACADEMEC ANDRDPDV
W&SNOW EACH AT WORK AETHOUGH UNOER STFTCT OFDERS TD
GWMTTHMS SCHEMULE
SEUERAK SECRETARY WORKE CURFENTLY ETGHT MOURG A MAY WITH
& EREAK FOF A MIDMDAY REST, UCOMMENT: THIS ECHEDUKE
WOU|D ACOOFD WYTH THE PATTERN OF ABDREPOV'S MOTORCADE
MUVEMENTS.F WEEKENDS WERE TO EE RESERVED EOR REST.
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"&MEROUS D,STRICT LEVEL ORCANLZATIONS. WHILE THE CAMM
OLIGNHAS NOW WEACHED THE OBLAST LEVEL, OTSTRUCT LEVEL
OFFPCIALS AFE SMHLL EEYNG SZNGLED OUT FOR SHORTCOMTNES.I
:S.THE SCHOLAR SAID THAH HE HAD HEARD FROM TMO SOURCES
THAT ANDRODOV HAD SENT A HARD-MITTTNG LETTER TO ALL
pabTr OEGANEZATYONS IN OCTDEE& THAT DECLAREO IN NO
UNCEFTAIN TERMS THAT THE FATHEFLAND WAE IN DANGER AND
UNDERSCORED THE NECESSITY OF REVIVING LND REINVIGORATING
THE SOVSET ECONOMY FEFORTEDLY ANDROPOV STRESSED THAT
HE WAS NOT EXAGGERATING THE EXTERNAL DANGER TO THE
NATHON, AND HE WARNED THAT THE TIME HAD PASSED WHEN A
    "FOTMALISTIC" APFRDACH TOWARD CHANCES MANDATED EY THE
CENTER WOULD EE TOLERATED AND THAT THDSE WHO DID NOT
EUPPOFT THESE GHANGES ASSIDUOUSLY WOULD EE DEALT WRTM
PUTHLESSLY, COMMENT: WE HAVE RECENTLY HEARD A
SIMMLAR REPORT FFOM A CHINESE DIPLOMAT, WHO SPECULATED
THAT THE INTENT OF THE LETTER HAD GEEN TO PREPARE THE
COUNTRY FOR AN INCREASED DEFENSE EURDEN.,
ECONOMLC FEFORM
16. WHILE SOVIET CONTACTS EVINCED A CONTINUED
GECOGNITION THAT MAJOR ECONOMHC CHANGES WERE ESSENTIAL,
THE SCHOLAN DETECTED A MARKEDLY DECREASED CONVICTION
THAT SUCH CHANGES COULD EE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED.
THE SCHOLAR HIMSELF WAS PESSIMTSTIC THAT CURRENT
EFFORTS WOULD MAKE AN AFPRECIABLE DENT IN A SYSTEM
STILL GOVEFNED EY AN UNREAL PFICINE MEGHANISM AND A
LACR OF MEANINGFUL MATERIAL INCENTIVES. THERE SEEMED
TO EE NO WAY, HE ASSERTED, OF EREAKING THE VICUOUS
PRODUCTIVITY'HNCENTIVES CURCLE. WHILE THE SOON-TO-BE
MNTRODUCED EXPERIMENT IN INCREASED ENTEFPRISE AUTONDMY
DHD TNDEED REFRESENT THE MOST MEANINGFUL STEF TAKEN IN
THE SPHERE OF ECONOMIC CHANGE SINCE THE LATE EO,S,
位WAS ULTYMATELY DOOMED TO FAILUPE. IT WAS TYPICAL
OF FREVTOUS EFFORTS AT ECONOMTE CHANGE IN THAT IT W&S
LPMITED IN APPLICATION AND TNCHEMENTAL IN APFROACH.
AS IT STOOD, IT WAS LIKELY TO EE ABSOREED AND THUS
SNOTHERED WITHIN THE SYSTEM EVEN IF THE EXPERIMENT
FRONUCEU POS*TIVE RESULTS WYTHTN THE FIVE MINTSTRIES
WHERE IT IS TO GET UNDERWAY MEXT JANUARY, THE SCHOLAR
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