

OO RUEA11B
 ZNY SSSSS ZOC STATE ZZH
 TOO RUFHUK RUEHMO RUFHNA RUFHGV
 DE RUEHC #5321 2280105
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 O 142306Z AUG 80
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO RUFHUK/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 4676
 INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 0657
 RUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 5311
 RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 8430
 BT
 S E C R E T STATE 215321

EXDIS GENEVA FOR AMB EARLE

DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 8/14/90 (KEENE, SPURGEON M.)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/IPS/CR/IR SK Date: 6/9/97

TAGS: PARM, US, UK, UR

RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY EO Citations _____
 DENY IN PART

SUBJECT: US/UK CONSULTATIONS: SVERDLOVSK

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

FOIA Exemptions (b)(3) _____ TS authority to
 PA Exemptions _____ CLASSIFY as S or C Sec. _____
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C

2. ACDA DEP ASST DIR NEIDLE CALLED IN BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER PAKENHAM ON AUGUST 13 TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL FOR INITIATING DETAILED US/UK CONSULTATIONS ON THE SVERDLOVSK CASE. PALMER (STATE/PM) AND FINCH (ACDA) ALSO PARTICIPATED IN MEETING. NEIDLE REVIEWED GENERAL BACKGROUND ON RECENT US-SOVIET EXCHANGES ON THE SUBJECT AND SUMMARIZED LATEST DEMARCHE ALONG LINES OF BRIEFINGS PROVIDED TO ALLIES. HE SAID THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WITH SOVIETS NOT HAVING BEEN RESPONSIVE TO U.S. REQUESTS FOR COOPERATION, THERE WAS HIGH-LEVEL CONSENSUS WITHIN USG THAT IT WOULD NOT BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO HAVE SERIOUS AND INTENSIVE US/UK CONSULTATIONS IN NEAR FUTURE.

SECRET

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3. NEIDLE OUTLINED FOLLOWING PROPOSAL FOR BILATERALS. A SMALL GROUP, LED BY AMB. EARLE, COULD VISIT LONDON FOR DISCUSSIONS BEGINNING AUGUST 28 WITH SENIOR LEVEL OFFICIALS. IF THE 26TH WERE NOT FEASIBLE, NEIDLE INDICATED THAT FRIDAY, THE 29TH WOULD BE POSSIBLE OR, FAILING THAT, WEDNESDAY THE 27TH. OUR PREFERENCE FOR BEGINNING ON THE 28TH WOULD ALLOW A SECOND DAY OF TALKS IF NECESSARY TO

PERMIT A THOROUGH EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. CONSULTATIONS WOULD INCLUDE REVIEW OF INFORMATION BEARING ON THE SVERDLOVSK CASE; REVIEW OF THE DIPLOMATIC STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR; AND EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE STEPS. NEIDLE STRESSED THE SERIOUSNESS AND URGENCY WHICH THE ENTIRE U.S. GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO THIS PROBLEM IN VIEW OF THE FAR-REACHING RAMIFICATIONS WHICH IT COULD HAVE FOR FUTURE ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS AND FOR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. PALMER NOTED THAT SECRETARY MUSKIE AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER HAD BEEN PERSONALLY INVOLVED HERE, RAISING THE ISSUE WITH AMB. DOBRYNIN, AND THAT WE HAD ALSO RAISED IT AT SENIOR LEVELS IN MOSCOW. HAVING THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, NEIDLE AND PALMER EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE IF LORD CARRINGTON COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSULTATIONS. NEIDLE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY, FOR EXAMPLE, OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY LEADING OFF THE DISCUSSIONS BY PARTICIPATING IN THE OPENING SESSION AND ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETING PRIVATELY WITH AMB. EARLE.

4. IN DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED, PAKENHAM ASKED WHETHER WE INTENDED TO HAVE SIMILAR BILATERALS WITH THE FRENCH OR GERMANS. NEIDLE SAID THAT THESE WERE NOT BEING PLANNED AT PRESENT, ALTHOUGH WE COULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER WITH UK HOW WE MIGHT PROCEED WITH FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH ALLIES. PALMER NOTED THE UK'S SPECIAL POSITION AS A DEPOSITARY PARTY AND AS THE COUNTRY WHICH HAD INITIALLY PROPOSED A BW CONVENTION. RESPONDING TO PAKENHAM'S REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON OUR PREFERENCES REGARDING POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS, NEIDLE OBSERVED THAT THE U.S. HAD NO DEFINITE POSITIONS REGARDING ALL THE POSSIBLE OPTIONS--INDEED, A PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF THE ALTERNATIVES WITH OUR UK COLLEAGUES. HE OBSERVED THAT THE U.S. APPROACH TO DATE HAS BEEN

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CAUTIOUS, GRADUAL, AND PERSISTENT. HE SAID THERE WAS AN OBVIOUS RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES TO BE CONSIDERED WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FURTHER U.S. OR UK BILATERAL STEPS, POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENT INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN A CONSULTATIVE PROCESS OF THE SORT WHICH HAD BEEN PROMOTED BY SWEDEN AT THE BR REVCOM, THE QUESTION OF REFERRAL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL (WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED IN CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTIONS) AND THE QUESTION OF TRYING TO IMPROVE THE TREATY (WHICH SENATOR PROXMIRE HAD SUGGESTED). THESE WERE ALL VERY COMPLEX MATTERS AND WE HOPED UK OFFICIALS WOULD BE ABLE TO BEGIN A DISCUSSION WITH US OF FUTURE STEPS AND POSSIBLE STRATEGIES.

5. NEEDLE SAID THAT THE USG WAS WORKING ON TWO PAPERS WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE CONSULTATIONS AND WHICH WE

WOULD TRY TO PROVIDE TO THE BRITISH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ONE WAS A COMPREHENSIVE COMPILATION AND ANALYSIS OF ALL OF OUR INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT UK POLICY OFFICIALS TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE SAME MATERIAL WHICH WAS THE BASIS OF THE U.S. CONCERNS. THE SECOND WAS A DRAFT OF A BACKGROUND PAPER WHICH WOULD REMAIN CLASSIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING BUT COULD BE THE BASIS FOR BRIEFING OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS AND MIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY BE DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED PUBLICLY TO EXPLAIN OUR CASE.

6. DURING DISCUSSION, PAKENHAM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DETAILED U.S. BRIEFINGS, RECALLED THAT UK OFFICIALS HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO CONSULTATIONS WITH US, AND THOUGHT THAT USG INITIATIVE WOULD BE WELCOMED. HE PROMISED TO REPORT TO LONDON AND PROVIDE RESPONSE ASAP.
CHRISTOPHER

END OF MESSAGE

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