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E.O. 12065:RDS, 12/18/85 (BARRY, R. L.)

TAGS:MIL, PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT:SUPPLEMENTARY SOVIET STATEMENT ON US STRATEGIC ALERT

REF:A.STATE 312357; B. STATE 295771

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DURING MEETING ON OTHER SUBJECTS (SEPTEL), SOVIET CHARGE VASEV HANDED OVER NON-PAPER RESPONDING TO DECEMBER 3 US REPLY TO NOVEMBER 13 BREZHNEV ORAL MESSAGE ON EARLY-NOVEMBER US STRATEGIC ALERT. TEXT OF NON-PAPER FOLLOWS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECAPTIONED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: THEODORE SELLIN
DATE/CASE ID: 23 DEC 2002 199804489

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3. BEGIN TEXT:

IN VIEW OF THE UTMOST GRAVITY OF THE QUESTION RAISED IN OUR ORAL COMMUNICATION OF NOVEMBER 13, AND THE MOTIVES BY WHICH WE WERE GUIDED, THE REPLY OF THE US SIDE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY EITHER IN SUBSTANCE OR IN FORM.

WITHOUT GOING INTO THE QUESTION OF HOW EXHAUSTIVE WERE THE REPORTS CONCERNING THE FALSE SIGNAL OF THE US TECHNICAL

MEANS ABOUT A NUCLEAR MISSILE ATTACK - ALTHOUGH THOSE REPORTS, AS IS KNOWN, HAVE NOT BEEN REFUTED OFFICIALLY IN THE US, NOR HAS THE FACT BEEN ACTUALLY DENIED IN THE REPLY OF THE US SIDE - WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE AIM OF OUR COMMUNICATION WAS NOT TO ENTER INTO POLEMICS. IT WAS DICTATED BY A PROFOUND AND NATURAL CONCERN WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY HAVE THE MOST DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES AND WHICH, FOR THIS REASON, CONCERN NOT ONLY THE UNITED STATES. IT IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE THAT, IN OUR VIEW, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT IN MATTERS OF SUCH KIND THERE MUST BE NO PLACE FOR ANY MISTAKES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR CAUSES. IT CAN ONLY BE REGRETTED THAT THIS POINT OF PRINCIPLE IS BYPASSED IN THE REPLY OF THE US SIDE WITH THE LIGHTNESS WHICH DOES NOT ACCORD WITH THE GRAVITY OF THE QUESTION.

END TEXT. VANCE

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