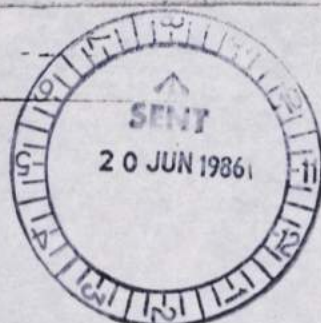


ADVANCE COPIES 18

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS



PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR RENTON  
PS/PUS  
MR DEREK THOMAS  
MR GOODALL  
MR RATFORD  
MR ~~WILSON~~ DAUNT  
MR DAVID THOMAS

MR POWELL, NO 10 DOWNING ST

MR D NICHOLLS, DUS(P) } MOD  
B. NPS ( ) }  
DACU }  
CBI }

HD/DEFENCE D  
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HD/SOVIET D

RESIDENT CLERK

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15.1.85

IMMEDIATE

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FM WASH TO FCOLM  
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CONFIDENTIAL  
FM WASHINGTON  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 1633  
OF 192359Z JUNE 86  
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, MOSCOW  
INFO PRIORITY BONN, PARNIS, UKDEL NATO  
INFO ROUTINE UKDIS GENEVA, UKDEL STOCKHOLM, UKDEL VIENNA,  
MODUK FOR DACU

MIPT: THE PRESIDENT'S GLASSBORO SPEECH

1. THE GLASSBORO SPEECH HAD BEEN WIDELY TRAILED IN THE PRESS AS LIKELY TO CONTAIN IMPORTANT MATERIAL ON ARMS CONTROL AND THE CHOICE OF GLASSBORO - SITE OF THE 1967 JOHNSON/KOSYGIN SUMMIT - WAS CLEARLY UNINTENTIONAL.
2. IN THE EVENT, IT COVERED US/SOVIET RELATIONS AND ARMS CONTROL ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS. THIS PRESUMABLY REFLECTS THE WHITE HOUSE'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO BLOCK LEAKS OF, OR PREMATURE JUDGEMENTS ON, THE NEW SOVIET MOVES IN GENEVA - WHICH IS IN ITSELF A FURTHER ENCOURAGING SIGN.
3. THE SPEECH IS ALSO NOTABLE FOR:
  - (A) THE PRESIDENT'S RELATIVELY MEASURED LANGUAGE ON THE SOVIET UNION AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE MILDNESS OF HIS REFERENCES TO GORBACHEV PERSONALLY.
  - (B) THE POSITIVE LIGHT IN WHICH THE NEW SOVIET PROPOSALS IN GENEVA ARE CAST. IN PARTICULAR, THE PRESIDENT'S REFERENCES TO A POSSIBLE QUOTE

OF OPPORTUNITY UNQUOTE IN US/SOVIET RELATIONS



THE PRESIDENT'S REFERENCES TO A POSSIBLE QUOTE  
MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY UNQUOTE IN US/SOVIET RELATIONS  
AND TO A POSSIBLE QUOTE TURNING POINT UNQUOTE IN  
ARMS CONTROL SUGGEST THAT THE WHITE HOUSE SEES  
REAL POTENTIAL IN THE NEW SOVIET PROPOSALS. AND  
HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT QUOTE IT APPEARS THAT THE  
SOVIETS HAVE BEGUN TO MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT.  
UNQUOTE IS CLEARLY MEANT TO BE SEEN IN MOSCOW AS  
A RESPONSIVE SIGNAL.

4. THE CONDEMNATION OF MAD, AND THE REPETITION OF THE ASSERTION  
THAT THE SDI MAY MAKE POSSIBLE QUOTE A SHIELD THAT COULD PROTECT  
US FROM NUCLEAR MISSILES JUST AS A ROOF PROTECTS A FAMILY FROM  
RAIN UNQUOTE, HIS STANDARD REAGAN STUFF, AND HIS RE-EMERGENCE  
NOW SHOULD PROBABLY NOT BE TAKEN TOO TRAGICALLY. TO OMIT IT  
WOULD HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY AND PERSONALLY DIFFICULT FOR THE  
PRESIDENT (AND NO DOUBT ALSO BAD NEGOTIATING TACTICS).

5. ALTHOUGH THE SDI PASSAGE WILL GIVE OPPONENTS OF ARMS CONTROL  
SOMETHING TO CONTINUE TO BITE ON, THE NET EFFECT OF THE  
SPEECH SEEMS CERTAIN TO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THOSE IN THE  
ADMINISTRATION WHO WISH TO SEE A POSITIVE SUBSTANTIVE US RESPONSE TO  
THE SOVIET GENEVA PROPOSALS.

WRIGHT

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COMPREHENSIVE  
RESEARCH GROUP  
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