

BD 230700Z

ADVANCE COPIES

18

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

IMMEDIATE

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

MR POWELL, NO 10 DOWNING ST

MR D NICHOLLS, DUS(P) }
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RESIDENT CLERK

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FM PARIS
TO DESKBY 230700Z FCO
TELNO 736
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US RESPONSE TO SOVIET GENEVA PROPOSALS:
NITZE VISIT

1. ON RAIMOND'S INSTRUCTIONS, D'ABOVILLE (DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR) BRIEFED US TONIGHT ON NITZE'S TALKS IN PARIS TODAY. NITZE HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH MITTERRAND, RAIMOND, BUJON (CHIRAC'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER) AND MOREL. HE PRESENTED THE PROPOSED US RESPONSE IN TERMS WHICH WILL NOW BE FAMILIAR TO YOU.
2. IN RESPONSE, THE FRENCH MADE FOUR MAIN COMMENTS:-
 - A) THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT THE US ENVISAGED TAKING UP THE SOVIET DEMAND TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THIRD COUNTRIES' NUCLEAR FORCES, EVEN IF THIS WOULD BE AFTER 50 PERCENT STRATEGIC CUTS AND PROGRESS ON INF, BECAUSE
 - I) SUCH REDUCTIONS WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SECURITY OF EUROPE, WHICH WOULD NEED TO BE STUDIED. NEGOTIATIONS ON UK/FRENCH FORCES COULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO A SINGLE, BRUTAL CONDITION. FRANCE HAD THREE CONDITIONS, OF WHICH ONE CONCERNED DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC DEFENCES.
 - II) THE FRENCH POSITION WAS TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS, NOT AUTOMATICALLY TO PARTICIPATE, IF THE THREE CONDITIONS WERE MET.

II) THE FRENCH POSITION WAS TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS, NOT AUTOMATICALLY TO PARTICIPATE, IF THE THREE CONDITIONS WERE MET.

III) THE FRENCH HAD NEVER GIVEN FIGURES FOR THE STRATEGIC REDUCTIONS REQUIRED TO MEET THEIR FIRST CONDITION.

THEY SUGGESTED THEREFORE THAT THE US REPLACE THE PRESENT FORMULA BY ONE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SITUATION WOULD BE SUCH THAT OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE STATEMENTS THEY HAD MADE.

B) THE REFERENCE TO A PARTIAL OR INTERIM INF APPROACH SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THAT SHOULD BE ON A GLOBAL BASIS TOO.

C) THE IDEA OF A PARALLEL PROGRAMME ON TESTING - EVEN IF NOT A STRICTLY PROPORTIONAL ONE - WAS DANGEROUS.

D) THEY DEPLORED THE DOWN-GRADING OF THE CONVENTIONAL AND CW ELEMENT, COMPARED WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN'S FEBRUARY LETTER.

3. THEY ALSO ASKED WHICH INTERPRETATION OF THE ABM TREATY WOULD APPLY DURING THE 7 AND A HALF YEAR PERIOD OF NON-WITHDRAWAL FROM IT. THEY SAID THAT STABILITY FOR EUROPE COULD NOT BE DEFINED IN TERMS ONLY OF ONE CRITERION, VIZ DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS. THEY ADVISED AGAINST THE REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS OF LESS THAN 50 PERCENT, FOR FEAR THAT THAT MIGHT SEEM TO THE SOVIETS TO JUSTIFY THEIR LINE THAT 50 PERCENT REDUCTIONS WERE POSSIBLE IF FBS WERE INCLUDED BUT ONLY 30 PERCENT IF NOT.

4. NITZE TOOK NOTE. HE SAID THAT THE US POSITION MIGHT EVOLVE ON MOBILE MISSILES TOWARDS PROPOSING A BAN ON MIRVED SYSTEMS ONLY.

FRETWELL

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