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FROM MOSCOW 121535Z DECEMBER
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 1420 OF 12 DECEMBER
 INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
 INFO PRIORITY BONN , PARIS AND UKDEL NATO

MY TELNO 1385 : US/SOVIET RELATIONS.

1. AS YOU WILL , I IMAGINE , HAVE HEARD FROM SHULTZ IN LONDON, THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CHERNENKO WAS DELIVERED ON 8 DECEMBER IN WASHINGTON THE DAY AFTER THE LAST SHULTZ/DOBRYNIN MEETING SEMICLN THIS PERSONAL FROM HARTMAN WHO HAS REMAINED IN MOSCOW BUT WILL SEE SHULTZ AND NITZE OVER THE WEEKEND BEFORE THEIR MEETING WITH KOHL. AT MEETING OF THE FOUR ON 12 DECEMBER HARTMAN DID NOT GIVE DETAILS OF EITHER THE MESSAGE OR THE MEETING BUT SAID THAT IN VARIOUS EXCHANGES IN PREPARATION FOR GENEVA , SPACE HAD FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN THE US COMMUNICATIONS AND THAT THE SIGNALS FROM THE RUSSIAN SIDE HAD ALL BEEN THAT THEY WISH TO GET DOWN TO SUBSTANCE AND WERE ' ' PREPARED FOR RADICAL SOLUTIONS ' ' (CF PUBLIC MESSAGE FROM CHERNENKO QUOTED IN MY TELNO 1402). THE RUSSIANS WERE SENDING A LARGE DELEGATION FOR THE FOUR MEETINGS NOW ARRANGED DURING 7 AND 8 JANUARY, WITH KARPOV (THE START NEGOTIATOR) TO MATCH NITZE. THE PREPARATORY EXCHANGES DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET OVER THE HURDLE OF DEFINING OBJECTIVES, BUT OTHERWISE THE SIGNS WERE RATHER POSITIVE.

2. ON THE DEFINITION OF OBJECTIVES, HARTMAN SAID THAT SENATOR DESMOND GORE WHO HAD HAD DETAILED SESSIONS EARLIER THIS WEEK IN MOSCOW WITH KORNIENKO , KARPOV AND GENERAL CHERVOV HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE RUSSIANS MIGHT RESPOND TO PROPOSALS WHICH SET AS AN OBJECTIVE THE ATTAINMENT OF A BALANCE IN FORCE STRUCTURES FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS HENCE. GORE HAD FOUND THE RUSSIANS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE PROBLEM OF VULNERABILITY OF LAND-BASED STRATEGIC FORCES, RELUCTANT TO CONTEMPLATE CHANGES IN THEIR OWN DISPOSITIONS, BUT CONSCIOUS OF THE PROBLEMS THIS CREATED FOR THE WEST IN ACHIEVING AN ACCEPTABLE BALANCE. THEY HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT ANY PROGRESS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON AGREEMENT ON SPACE WEAPONS.

3. HARTMAN MENTIONED THAT DOBRYNIN HAD BEEN TOLD THAT, IN THE MARGINS OF GENEVA, SHULTZ WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THE CELEBRATION NEXT YEAR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE WAR. THE AMERICANS WISH TO SEE IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO HEAD THE RUSSIANS OFF FROM USING THE OCCASION FOR ANTI REVANCHIST PROPAGANDA WHICH COULD CLOUD ANY ONGOING ARMS CONTROL. HARTMAN HINTED THAT IF SUCCESSFUL, THE AMERICANS MIGHT CONSIDER ALLIED PARTICIPATION .

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4. IN BRIEF ACCOUNT OF RECENT VISIT TO THE US BY MESYATS THE SOVIET MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE , HARTMAN SAID HE HAD SEEN ALL HE WISHED TO SEE IN A VERY FULL PROGRAMME. HE HAD SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WHICH THE AMERICANS CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE TO SOVIET CONDITIONS AND HAD BEEN VERY DEFENSIVE IN DISCUSSING SOVIET AGRICULTURAL PLANS. HE HAD MAINTAINED AGAINST ALL THE EVIDENCE THAT THIS YEAR'S HARVEST WAS BETTER THAN LAST. THE AMERICANS WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW IF WE DO BETTER WITH GORBACHEV.

SUTHERLAND

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EAST WEST & US/SOVIET RELATIONS

LIMITED

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RESEARCH D
PLANNING STAFF
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NAD
WED FED
ACDD
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR RIFKIND

PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
SIR W HARDING
MR FERGUSSON
MR GOODALL
MR JENKINS
MR WESTON
MR DAVID THOMAS

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