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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, UR, US, OVIP
SUBJECT: GORBACHEV TRIP TO NEW YORK:
- DUBININ'S MEETING WITH U/S ARMACOST

REF: MOSCOW 27814

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING THE SOVIET "CONCEPT" FOR THE LUNCH MEETING IN NEW YORK WITH UNDER SECRETARY ARMACOST, SOVIET AMBASSADOR DUBININ MADE THE "PRELIMINARY" SUGGESTION OF A SHULTZ-SHEVARDNADZE MEE ING THE MORNING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, TIME AND PLACE TO BE DETERMINED. EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK TO CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY BEFORE SOVIET OFFICIA DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR NEW YORK, DRAWING ON
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TALKING POINTS AT PARA. 12. END SUMMARY.

SHULTZ-SHEVARDNADZE MEETING IN NEW YORK

3. SOVIET AMBASSADOR YURIY DUBININ CALLED ON UNDER

CHAIRMAN GORBACHEV AND PRESIDENT REAGAN. DUBININ LED OFF BY IMPLYING THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN INTEREST ON THE PART OF SECRETARY SHULTZ IN A MEETING WITH THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH WAS RECIPROCATED BY SHEVARDNADZE. THIS MEETING COULD TAKE PLACE THE MORNING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, AT A TIME TO BE DECIDED, DUBININ SAID.

4. THE UNDER SECRETARY SAID THAT, IF SHEVARDNADZE WISHED TO MEET WITH SECRETARY SHULTZ, OUR INITIAL THINKING WAS THAT THE TUESDAY AFTERNOON VARIANT W S PREFERABLE. DUBININ SAID THE CIRCUMSTANCES HAD CHANGED AND THAT WEDNESDAY MORNING WAS NOW MORE LIKELY. MR. ARMACOST SAID WEDNESDAY MORNING WAS ACTUALLY EASIER IN SOME WAYS FOR THE U.S. SIDE, INASMUCH AS SECRETARY SHULTZ WOULD HAVE HAD TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON TUESDAY NIGHT AFTER A TUESDAY MEETING. HE ASKED WHETHER DUBININ HAD IN MIND A BREAKFAST; DUBININ HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT, BUT SUGGESTED 9:30 AS A POSSIBLE TIME. MR. ARMACOST NOTED THAT SINCE MR. GORBACHEV'S U.N. SCHEDULE STARTED AT 10, THAT LEFT LITTLE TIME. DID DUBININ WISH TO IMPLY THAT THE MINISTERS' MEETING HAD TO BE OVER BY 10? DUBININ SAID HIS SUGGESTION WAS ONLY A TENTATIVE ONE: THE QUESTION OF PRECISE TIMING AND WHETHER THE MEETING WAS TO BE A BREAKFAST WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN OPEN. A FINAL SOVIET

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DECISION ON THE MEETING MIGHT HAVE TO AWAIT THE OFFICIAL PARTY'S ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK.

5. MR. ARMACOST SUGGESTED THAT IN THE INTEREST OF SAVING TIME, A MEETING MIGHT TAKE PLACE AT THE U.S. MISSION TO THE U.N., RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. AMBASSADOR DUBININ NOTED THAT, ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET COUNT, IT WAS THE SOVIETS' TURN TO HOST. MR. ARMACOST POINTED OUT THAT MEETING AT THE SOVIET MISSION, ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE, WOULD INVOLVE A MOTORCADE AND THERE MIGHT BE DELAYS OF 10-15 MINUTES OR MORE. THE SECRETARY, MR ARMACOST ADDED, WOULD BE WILLING TO BEGIN AS EARLY AS 8:30. MR. SIMONS INTERJECTED THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING THE MEETING TO BE OUTSIDE THE OFFICIAL SEQUENCE OF ALTERNATING VENUES (V NE OCHEREDI). DUBININ SAID HE WAS THINKING ONLY OF THE PRIVILEGE OF HOSTING, WHICH SHOULD GO TO THE VISITOR; ARMACOST SAID HIS SUGGESTION OF USUN HAD BEEN FOR CONVENIENCE'S SAKE.

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6. DUBININ AGAIN STRESSED THAT HE WAS FLOATING THE IDEA IN A PRELIMINARY WAY, AND THAT THESE ISSUES WOULD MOST PROBABLY BE SETTLED ONLY WHEN GORB CHEV'S PLANE LANDED ON TUESDAY. IF THAT WERE THE CASE, MR. ARMACOST SAID, THERE WOULD BE NO POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING ON TUESDAY. WE NEEDED TO HAVE AN ANSWER BEFORE THE SOVIET PLANE LANDED.

CONCEPT OF DECEMBER 7 MEETING
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7. DUBININ WENT ON TO DISCUSS THE "CONCEPT" OF THE REAGAN-GORBACHEV MEETING IN NEW YORK THAT HE SAID HE HAD DERIVED IN CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE IN MOSCOW. THERE WAS, FIRST OF ALL, THE QUESTION OF THE EFFECT THE MEETING WOULD HAVE ON PUBLIC OPINION AND PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS. THERE WAS ALSO THE MEANING THAT WOULD BE ASCRIBED TO CHAIRMAN GORBACHEV'S SPEECH AT THE

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UNITED NATIONS AND THE VERY FACT OF HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT. THE SOVIET SIDE DID NOT VIEW THE MEETING AS ONE WHERE MAJOR DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE. THERE WOULD BE A "FREE CONVERSATION" -- BUT EVEN SUCH A CONVERSATION HAS ITS OWN CONCEPTUAL BASIS, DUBININ SAID. WITHOUT EXPECTING ANY BREAKTHROUGHS IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, SHEVARDNADZE HAD SUGGESTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A SHORT JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ABOUT CONTINUITY IN THE RELATIONSHIP. THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD BRING A DRAFT OF SUCH A DOCUMENT, AND INVITED THE U.S. SIDE TO HAVE ONE OF ITS OWN PREPARED.

8. AS FOR GORBACHEV'S SPEECH TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, DUBININ ADMITTED CANDIDLY THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN IT, BUT PROMISED THAT IT WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT AND SUBSTANTIVE ONE, ADDRESSED TO THE U.N., BUT "POSITIVE" IN THE TONE IT TOOK TOWARD U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.

9. UNDER SECRETARY ARMACOST SAID THE SOVIET CONCEPT OF THE MEETING CLOSELY COINCIDED WITH OUR OWN. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE HAD NOT HEARD OF PLANS FOR A JOINT STATEMENT. ONE COULD SIGNAL CONTINUITY BY BRIEFING THE PRESS; IT WAS A QUESTION OF HOW FORMAL ONE WANTED TO BE ABOUT IT.

10. MR. SIMONS SAID THE U.S. SIDE HADN'T ENVISAGED ANY JOINT STATEMENT, AND WONDERED ALOUD HOW MUCH TIME IT WOULD TAKE TO NEGOTIATE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BRIEF

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PERIOD AVAILABLE FOR THE MEETINGS. UNCLASSIFIED
THE TIME SPENT ON THE JOINT STATEMENT AT THE MOSCOW
SUMMIT, AND WAS WARY OF TEXTS.

11. DUBININ SAID HE WANTED TO BE SURE THAT HE WAS NOT
MISUNDERSTOOD: MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE HAD IN MIND NOT A
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LONG, COMPLICATED STATEMENT, BUT SOMETHING SHORT. UNDER
SECRETARY ARMACOST AGREED TO PASS THE IDEA ALONG TO
SECRETARY SHULTZ.

ACTION REQUESTED OF EMBASSY MOSCOW

12. AMBASSADOR OR ADCM SHOULD, AT THE EARLIEST
OPPORTUNITY, MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO AN APPROPRIATE
INTERLOCUTOR AT THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY:

- I ADVISED WASHINGTON THAT YOU HAD RAISED THE
POSSIBILITY OF FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE AND THE
SECRETARY MEETING THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 6.
- SINCE THEN, AMBASSADOR DUBININ HAS SUGGESTED A
MEETING THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 7, POSSIBLY AT 9:30.
- YOUR MISSION TO THE U.N. HAS MADE THE SAME SUGGESTION.
- THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE IS VERY TIGHT.
- THE SECRETARY HAD NOT PLANNED ON A MEETING AND WAS
NOT SEEKING ONE. HOWEVER, IF MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE
BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO MEE BEFORE THE LUNCHEON,
HE IS PREPARED TO DO SO.
- ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO MEET THE EVENING OF THE
SIXTH. THE MEETING WOULD HAVE TO BE AT A TIME THAT WOULD
PERMIT THE SECRETARY TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON AFTERWARDS.
HE WOULD THEN FLY UP AGAIN DECEMBER 7.
- A SECOND ALTERNATIVE -- PERHAPS MORE CONVENIENT FOR
BOTH THE SECRETARY AND THE MINISTER -- WOULD BE TO MEET,
AS YOU HAVE NOW SUGGESTED, THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 7.
SINCE WE EXPECT MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE WILL WANT TO
ACCOMPANY CHAIRMAN GORBACHEV TO HIS 10:00 AM MEETING WITH

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THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, WE SUGGEST THE MEETING BEGIN AT 8:30.

-- GIVEN THE PROXIMITY OF THE U.S. MISSION TO THE U.N. HEADQUARTERS BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET, WE FURTHER SUGGEST THAT THE MEETING TAKE PLACE THERE.

END POINTS. SHULTZ

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