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NLRR 007-014 # 3/775
BY RW NARA DATE 2-5-10
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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WHSR COMMENT: FOR THE PRESIDENT

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OP IMMED
DE WTE24 #0001 0492041
O 181954Z FEB 83
FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON

TO WHITE HOUSE

*See page 1 - p. 2
not read - must see it
over find in the J.R.S. 2*
WHSR HAS SEEN
PR
P. 3 ??

OR

Good

~~SECRET~~

TELEGRAM NUMBER MISC 066 DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1983
MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN
DEAR RON.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 16 FEBRUARY ABOUT THE INF
NEGOTIATIONS.

GEORGE BUSH'S VISIT TO LONDON WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO US AND
HIS TOUR OF EUROPE AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS.

I ENTIRELY SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT THE TIMING OF A MAJOR NEW
INITIATIVE INVOLVING A PROPOSAL FOR FIXED LIMITS ABOVE ZERO
ON INF WEAPONS WILL NEED TO BE CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY.

I AGREE THAT THIS IS NOT A STEP TO BE TAKEN BEFORE THE GERMAN
ELECTIONS, BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE STRONG GROUNDS
FOR CONSIDERING SUCH AN INITIATIVE VERY SOON AFTER THOSE ELECTIONS.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE STATEMENT
YOU PROPOSE TO MAKE ON 22 FEBRUARY. MY VIEWS ARE AS FOLLOWS.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO EUROPE HAS AROUSED PUBLIC
EXPECTATIONS THAT WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN
INTERMEDIATE STEP ON THE ROAD TO OUR FINAL OBJECTIVE, THE ZERO

OUTCOME. THE PHRASE HE USED, WHICH CAUGHT THE PUBLIC IMAGINATION
WAS THAT THE ZERO OPTION WAS NOT A TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT PROPOSAL.

I THINK IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT YOUR STATEMENT ON 22 FEBRUARY

Historical File

*Executive Order 12958, National Security
Executive Order 12958, State File Records*

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SHOULD REINFORCE THAT POINT. WHILE IT SHOULD NOT INFLATE EXPECTATIONS, I HOPE IT WILL NOT ONLY TAKE THE FORM OF A CLEAR AND BASIC RE-STATEMENT OF THE US POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BUT ALSO BEGIN TO INDICATE HOW THAT POSITION MIGHT BE DEVELOPED. THIS WILL MAINTAIN THE TREND OF GROWING UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN POSITION WHICH THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S VISIT DID SO MUCH TO ENCOURAGE.

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER STRESSING THAT NATO, WITH NO INF DEPLOYED IS TODAY AT THE LEVEL OF THE ZERO OPTION. THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO MOVE FROM THAT SITUATION BUT THAT WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR THIS BY THE SOVIET UNION'S LARGE-SCALE DEPLOYMENT OF INF. AND THAT IF ONLY THE RUSSIANS WOULD ACCEPT THE AGREEMENT WHICH THE US HAVE OFFERED THEM, NATO COULD REMAIN AT THE ZERO LEVEL AND BE JOINED THERE BY THE SOVIET UNION. THAT REMAINS THE BEST PROSPECT OF REMOVING A WHOLE CLASS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

Handwritten note: NATO

IT WILL THEN BE IMPORTANT, I THINK, TO STATE THAT AMBASSADOR WITZE HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO EXAMINE URGENTLY AND WITH THE UTMOST CARE ANY SERIOUS SOVIET INITIATIVE, BUT IT WOULD BE A PITY TO LIMIT OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO IDEAS WHICH WILL PRODUCE THE SAME RESULT. I BELIEVE THAT THAT WOULD LOOK TOO MUCH LIKE A RIGID ADHERENCE TO THE ZERO OPTION. I WOULD MUCH PREFER A STATEMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN GENEVA ANY PROPOSAL CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES TO WHICH THE ALLIANCE SUBSCRIBES.

THE KEY PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN YOUR MESSAGE SEEM TO ME TO BE RIGHT, BUT I HOPE THEY WILL BE EXPRESSED IN THAT CLEAR AND SIMPLE LANGUAGE WHICH YOU ALWAYS USE TO SUCH GOOD EFFECT. YOU WILL WANT YOUR STATEMENT TO REACH AND INFLUENCE A WIDE PUBLIC ACROSS THE WORLD.

I SHOULD PREFER THE SECOND PRINCIPLE TO READ THE BRITISH AND FRENCH STRATEGIC SYSTEMS ARE BY DEFINITION EXCLUDED FROM THESE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND CANNOT THEREFORE BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. I ALSO SUGGEST THAT THE FOURTH PRINCIPLE MIGHT REFER TO LIMITS WHICH, BY ESTABLISHING A BALANCE, WOULD MAINTAIN THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO DETERRENCE IN EUROPE.

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I HAVE ONE FURTHER POINT WHICH IS, OF COURSE, ENTIRELY FOR YOU TO DECIDE. YOUR MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE, IN WHICH YOU STATED YOUR READINESS TO MEET ANDROPOV TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT ON THE ZERO OUTCOME, PLAYED A MOST USEFUL ROLE IN IMPRESSING WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION DURING GEORGE BUSH'S VISIT. BUT I THINK IT MAY BE WORTH REFLECTING ON WHETHER REITERATION OF THAT PROPOSAL WILL HELP THE KIND OF MESSAGE YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR 22 FEBRUARY. YOUR READINESS TO MEET ANDROPOV FOR THIS PURPOSE IS NOW A MATTER OF RECORD AND, FOR THE REASONS I HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED, I AM INCLINED TO THINK THAT YOUR MESSAGE WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF ITS EMPHASIS IS ON YOUR READINESS TO CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE PROPOSALS WHICH ARE BALANCED AND VERIFIABLE.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL FIND THESE SUGGESTIONS HELPFUL. WE ARE AT ONE ON THE OBJECTIVES. YOUR STATEMENT ON 22 FEBRUARY WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT AND I AM GLAD TO HAVE HAD THIS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ABOUT IT. HELMUT KOHL'S REACTION TO YOUR IDEAS WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT. I AM SURE THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME WE SHOULD BE VERY MUCH INFLUENCED BY HIS VIEWS.

MY PERSONAL BEST WISHES TO YOU AND NANCY. I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME DURING THE QUEEN'S VISIT. I KNOW HOW VERY MUCH SHE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

YOURS EVER,
MARGARET