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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 434 OF 29 MARCH

INFO PRIORITY : WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO

INFO ROUTINE : BONN, PARIS, UKDIS GENEVA, MODUK.

WASHINGTON TELNO 970 : AMERICAN/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS IN GENEVA

1. AT A MEETING AT COUNSELLOR LEVEL ON 27 MARCH AT WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST OTHER NATO MISSIONS IN MOSCOW WERE PRESENT, THE AMERICAN SAID THAT THE GENEVA MEETING WAS ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO GET BEYOND THE STAGE OF OPENING STATEMENTS ON PREDICTABLE LINES. BUT THE US REPRESENTATIVE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A MORATORIUM IN ALL THREE AREAS. ON SPACE, THE MORATORIUM PROPOSAL EXTENDED NOT ONLY TO DEPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTION BUT ALSO TO RESEARCH. THE MORATORIUM ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS PROPOSED A FREEZE AT CURRENT LEVELS WITH AN IMPLICATION THAT NEW TYPES OF WEAPONRY WOULD BE EXCLUDED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED MORATORIUM. THE INF FREEZE WOULD BE AT CURRENT LEVELS. THE SPACE MORATORIUM HAD BEEN PROPOSED IN SUCH A WAY AS WOULD PERMIT WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS CONVENTIONAL ABM SYSTEMS.
2. THERE HAD AS YET BEEN NO FORMAL US REPLY, NOR HAD THE US MADE ANY FORMAL PROPOSAL THEMSELVES.
3. I HAVE SEEN NO REFERENCE TO A SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A MORATORIUM IN REPORTING ON GENEVA COPIED TO MOSCOW. HAVE THE AMERICANS REPORTED THIS ELSEWHERE? DECLINING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL, THE US REPRESENTATIVE AT THE MEETING REFERRED TO ABOVE, GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE MIGHT HAVE EXCEEDED HIS BRIEF IN SAYING AS MUCH AS HE DID.

SUTHERLAND

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

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