

RESTRICTED

FM MOSCOW

TO DESKBY 071600Z FCO

TELNO 209

OF 071515Z FEBRUARY 90

INFO ROUTINE PARIS, BONN, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO

INFO SAVING EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS

## SOVIET UNION: THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM: UPDATE

1. TASS HAS REPORTED THAT THE PLENUM APPROVED THE DRAFT PARTY PLATFORM IN MID AFTERNOON AND MOVED ON TO LITHUANIA. A PARTICIPANT TOLD REUTERS THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO MAJOR CHANGES FROM THE DRAFT ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED BY GORBACHEV. IN A SHOW OF HANDS, ELTSIN HAD BEEN THE ONLY PERSON TO VOTE AGAINST.
2. GAVRILL POPOV, A LEADER OF THE INTER REGIONAL GROUP OF DEPUTIES WHOM COUNSELLOR INTERNAL SAW AT LUNCHTIME, SAID THAT YELTSIN HAD UNDERTAKEN TO PROPOSE THE REMOVAL OF 3 PEOPLE FROM THE POLITBURO: LIGACHEV, VOROTNIKOV AND ZAIKOV. BUT HE THOUGHT IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN AND THAT THERE COULD WELL BE A CONSENSUS TO DELAY ANY MAJOR PERSONNEL CHANGES UNTIL THE CONGRESS.
4. THE SPEECHES BY LIGACHEV AND GIDHSPOL (REPORTED BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM) ARE A FID RESTATEMENT OF THE CONSERVATIVE POSITION - AGAINST ANY REDUCTION IN THE PARTY'S ROLE - THOUGH THEY AND OTHERS FAVOURED SOME MORE DEMOCRATIC MEANS OF ELECTING DELEGATES TO THE 28TH CONGRESS AND CHANGES IN PARTY PROCEDURES TO GIVE MORE INFLUENCE TO RANK AND FILE PARTY MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY OVER THE SELECTION OF PARTY OFFICIALS. WE STILL HAVE THE TEXTS OF ONLY A FEW OF THE SPEECHES MADE YESTERDAY. WESTERN JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN PICKING UP SUGGESTIONS THAT THERE WAS A STRONG CONSERVATIVE TONE TO MANY OF THEM. THIS WAS ALSO WHAT POPOV HAD HEARD. A PARTICIPANT INTERVIEWED ON YESTERDAY'S TV NEWS SAID THAT LIGACHEV'S SPEECH HAD BEEN ONE OF THE BEST RECEIVED. THE SPEECH ON THE FIRST DAY BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN POLAND, BROVIKOV, CONTAINED A REMARKABLE ATTACK ON PERESTROIKA. HE SAID THAT ALL THE PROBLEMS THE COUNTRY WAS FACING WERE NOT THE RESULT OF YESTERDAY'S STAGNATION, BUT OF PERESTROIKA AND HINTED THAT GORBACHEV HIMSELF WAS TO BLAME FOR THIS. INTERESTINGLY, HOWEVER, RYZHKOV - WHO HAS NORMALLY BEEN THOUGHT AS A CENTRIST IN POLITICAL TERMS - CAME OUT MUCH MORE STRONGLY THAN GORBACHEV IN FAVOUR OF WORKING TOWARDS A MULTI PARTY SYSTEM. BIKKENIN TOLD ME BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO THE UK THAT THERE HAD BEEN A REPEAT OF THE CRITICISM OF GORBACHEV AT THE DECEMBER 9 PLENUM THAT HIS POLICIES WERE PRAISED BY THE SOVIET UNIONS ENEMIES.
5. THE FACT THAT GORBACHEV GOT VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS APPROVAL FOR



SOMETHING VERY CLOSE TO HIS ORIGINAL DRAFT, SUGGESTS HE PITCHED HIS REFORM PROPOSALS AT ABOUT THE RIGHT LEVEL. BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE AN EXACT JUDGEMENT ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS PLENUM MARKS A CONCRETE STEP FORWARD UNTIL WE SEE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE PLATFORM. EVEN THEN, MANY OF THE KEY ISSUES IN RESTRUCTURING THE PARTY ARE LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN LEFT OVER TO THE NEXT PLENUM WHICH WILL DISCUSS THE NEW PARTY RULES. POPOV, WHO AS A LEADING RADICAL CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE THIS VIEW, SAID THE PLATFORM WAS A COMPROMISE DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD SATISFY NEITHER THE RADICALS NOR CONSERVATIVES. BUT HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE RADICALS WITHIN THE PARTY - IE THOSE BASING THEMSELVES ON THE SO-CALLED 'DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM' - WOULD FEEL THE NEED YET TO LEAVE THE PARTY. RATHER, HE THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD TRY TO PUSH HARD FOR THE LEGALISATION OF FRACTIONS WHICH HE SAW AS SOMETHING VIRTUALLY APPROACHING INDEPENDENT PARTIES WITH THEIR OWN PRESS AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE BUT REMAINING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CPSU. HE THOUGHT SUCH AN APPROACH MIGHT PERSUADE REPUBLICAN PARTIES TO STAY WITHIN THE CPSU. HE BELIEVED YELTSIN WOULD BE TAKING THIS LINE

LOGAN

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

163

MAIN 145

SOVIET INTERNAL/SOVIET ECONOMY  
LIMITED  
SOVIET D  
KIEV UNIT  
COMED  
CSCE UNIT  
SED  
MED  
CONSULAR D  
EED  
JAU/EED  
ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
ERD  
INFO D  
NEWS D  
PPD  
PUSD.

PLANNERS  
RESEARCH D  
WED  
ILA  
PS  
PS/MR WALDEGRAVE  
PS/PUS  
MR P J WESTON  
MR TOMKYS  
MR BAYNE  
MR TAIT  
MR GOULDEN  
MR CARRICK  
MISS SPENCER  
MR LING  
MR MOSS  
MR KERR.

ADDITIONAL 11  
SOVIET INTERNAL/SOVIET ECONOMY.

PAGE 2  
RESTRICTED

SAVING 7.  
EAST EUROPEAN POSTS.

NNNN