

UNCLASSIFIED

FM MOSCOW

TO PRIORITY FCO

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OF 160908Z MARCH 90

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO, PEKING, NEW DELHI
INFO PRIORITY MIDDLE EAST POSTS, HAVANA, UKREP BRUSSELS
INFO PRIORITY OTHER CSCE POSTS

CONGRESS OF PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES: PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S INAUGURAL
SPEECH: FOREIGN POLICY

SUMMARY

1. AT THE END OF HIS INAUGURAL SPEECH, GORBACHEV MADE A BRIEF TOUR D'HORIZON OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. HE DEALT WITH THE SOVIET-AMERICAN SUMMIT, GERMANY, CSCE, AND SUMMARILY WITH ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND LATIN AMERICA. HE REAFFIRMED SOVIET INTEREST IN JOINING THE WORLD ECONOMY AND STRENGTHENING THE UN.

DETAIL

2. GORBACHEV SAID THAT THE NEAR FUTURE WOULD SEE RENEWED EFFORTS TO MOVE FORWARD NEGOTIATIONS ON VARIOUS TYPES OF WEAPONRY.
3. MAJOR DECISIONS WERE BEING MADE READY FOR THE US-SOVIET SUMMIT IN JUNE WHICH WOULD BE POSITIVE STEPS NOT JUST IN THE BILATERAL REALTIONSHIP, BUT IN WORLD POLITICS GENERALLY.
4. IN EASTERN EUROPE, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE MAJOR CHANGES IN ALL SIX ALLIES. THEIR NEW RELATIONSHIP SHOULD PRESERVE THE VALUABLE ELEMENTS BUILT UP OVER THE PAST DECADES, WHILE ABANDONING ALL THAT WAS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH NEW THINKING.
5. THE GERMAN QUESTION WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. GORBACHEV RECALLED THAT "IN THE PAST FEW DAYS I HAVE HAD TO SET OUT OUR POSITION MORE THAN ONCE. IT IS WELL KNOWN BOTH TO OUR PEOPLE AND TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. ITS ESSENCE IS THAT IN REALISING THE GERMANS' NATURAL RIGHT TO UNITY THE RISK OF WAR ARISING FROM GERMAN TERRITORY MUST BE EXCLUDED COMPLETELY AND FOREVER. ALL THE REST DEPENDS FROM THIS, THE FOUR POWERS' RIGHTS, THE INTANGIBILITY OF FRONTIERS, THE LINKAGE WITH THE PAN-EUROPEAN PROCESS, THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF GERMAN MEMBERSHIP OF NATO AND THE NECESSITY OF A PEACE TREATY ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.
6. THE PACE OF EVENTS HAD GIVEN RENEWED IMPORTANCE TO THIS AUTUMN'S

SUMMIT OF THE EUROPEAN STATES, THE USA AND CANADA. WE NEEDED TO SET SIGN POSTS FOR 'HELSINKI-TWO' WHICH COULD BE A WATERSHED IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

7. NEW THINKING DID NOT IMPLY A COOLING OF SOVIET INTERESTS IN THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. SOVIET SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE STRUGGLING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS, SOCIAL PROGRESS DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN DIGNITY REMAIN UNCHANGED.

8. THE VLADIVOSTOCK AND KRASNOYARSK INITIATIVES HAD TO BE TURNED INTO REALITY. GORBACHEV PRAISED THE LONG TERM LINKS WITH 'GREAT' INDIA, AND WELCOMED IMPROVEMENTS IN COOPERATION WITH CHINA.

9. THE SOVIET UNION NEEDED TO REENGAGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. LATIN AMERICA WAS GROWING IN IMPORTANCE.

10. 'THE PRESIDENT HAS CONSTANTLY TO BEAR IN MIND THE QUESTION OF SOVIET INCORPORATION IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM, AND PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS.' HE REITERATED SOVIET BELIEF THAT THE UN NEEDED STRENGTHENING.

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