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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

LSO

Copy has been given to Mr. Sonnenfeldt.

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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

USSR

State Dept, OSD review(s)  
completed

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TO WHITE HOUSE

O B C R E T 080752Z OCT 74

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FROM: AMBASSADOR STOBBS, MOSCOW, 084

TO: GENERAL BOONCROFT, WHITE HOUSE

INFO ONLY GENERAL BOONCROFT,

SUBJECT: PNE TALKS - SOVIETS INDICATE WITHDRAWAL FROM

POSITION ON OBSERVERS

PASS TO SOMMERFELD AND LODAL

1. IN ONE-ON-ONE TALK WITH MOROKHOV OCTOBER 7 BEFORE FIRST PLenary, HE SAID, IN RESPONSE TO COMMENT I MADE ABOUT ON-SITE OBSERVERS, THAT SOVIET POSITION ON THIS POINT HAD CHANGED FROM THAT PRESENTED PRIOR TO SUMMIT. SOVIET PROPOSAL RE OBSERVERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS WITHDRAWN. WE SHOULD START OUT FRESH WITH NO PAST PROPOSALS "ON THE TABLE."

2. I SAID THIS WAS VERY SURPRISING IN VIEW OF DETAILED PROPOSALS MOROKHOV HIMSELF HAD TABLED IN JUNE FOR ON-SITE OBSERVERS AND WHICH HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY GROMYKO. MOROKHOV SAID IT WAS TRUE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY "SOME PEOPLE" AT TOP LEVEL IN SOVIET LEADERSHIP; HOWEVER, OTHERS HAD OPPOSED THEM. IF WE HAD ACCEPTED PROPOSALS IN JUNE, IT WAS "POSSIBLE" LEADERSHIP WOULD HAVE APPROVED THEM. NOW, SITUATION HAD CHANGED AND WE SHOULD START OVER. ON-SITE INSPECTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR SOVIETS, MOROKHOV RECALLED, AND THIS CONTINUED TO BE CASE.

3. MOROKHOV CONTINUED THAT, IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS EVEN MORE DESIRABLE THAT US AND SOVIETS AGREE TO GENERAL UNDERTAKING WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR JOINT US-SOVIET PNE PROJECTS AND US-SOVIET COOPERATION IN GIVING PNE ASSISTANCE TO OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS WOULD GET AROUND OBSERVER PROBLEM, SINCE US AND SOVIETS WOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER ON JOINT PROJECTS. IT WOULD ALSO TAKE CARE OF ARTICLE III IN TTB, AND ARTICLE V IN NPT. (MOROKHOV HAD SPOKE AT LENGTH AT LUNCH ON PROPOSAL FOR SUCH

\* \* \* \* \* WHSR COMMENT \* \* \* \* \*

SAC, BOONCROFT, LL

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GENERAL UNDERTAKING (SERTEL IN REGULAR CHANNEL).

4. COMMENT: MOROKHOV'S STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM PREVIOUS POSITION ON OBSERVERS IS SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD GREATLY INCREASE PROBLEM OF HANDLING PNEIS. IT WOULD ALSO UNDERCUT OUR PUBLIC POSITION ADOPTED ON BASIS EARLIER SOVIET PROPOSALS. THIS MAY BE NEGOTIATING POINT. OF COURSE, ALTHOUGH HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN QUITE VAGUE TERMS. I THOUGH IT BEST TO REPORT HIS PRIVATE REMARKS IN THIS CHANNEL TO REDUCE CHANCES OF PREMATURE SPECULATION. MOROKHOV WILL HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT HIS POSITION ON RECORD IF HE WISHES.

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