

***** T O P S E C R E T ***** COPY

[75-25X1-451179]

State Dept and OSD reviews completed.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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MORI/CDF per C05447052

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

T O P S E C R E T EYES ONLY VI

TO : GENERAL SCOWCROFT - THE WHITE HOUSE
FM : AMBASSADOR STOESEL - MOSCOW
SUBJ : SALT II

PLEASE PASS SONNENFELD AND LODAL

1. AT RECEPTION GIVEN BY USA SECTION OF FOREIGN OFFICE JUNE 5 SUBJECT OF SALT II CAME UP IN MY CONVERSATION WITH KORNIYENKO. HE COMMENTED THAT MANY DIFFICULT ISSUES REMAINED TO BE RESOLVED, AND THAT MOST OF THEM CONSISTED OF MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED BY US AND WHICH WERE NEVER DISCUSSED AT VLADIVOSTOK.

2. WHEN I ASKED FOR EXAMPLES, KORNIYENKO LAUNCHED INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE BACKFIRE. HE SAID THIS WAS CLEARLY A MEDIUM BOMBER WITH NO STRATEGIC ROLE, AND HE DERIDED IN CAUSTIC TERMS THE IDEA THAT A REFUELING CAPABILITY FOR THE BACKFIRE WAS EITHER CONTEMPLATED OR REALISTIC. HE SAW NO REPEAT NO CHANCE WHATSOEVER OF THE SOVIETS ACCEPTING THE US COMPROMISE PROPOSAL FOR THE BACKFIRE. HE ADDED THAT, IF HE PERSISTED IN PRESSING ABOUT THE BACKFIRE, THE SOVIETS COULD RAISE "SIMILAR PROBLEMS" ABOUT US WEAPONS, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT THINK THEY WOULD WANT TO DO THIS SINCE THEY DID NOT WISH TO RAISE PROBLEMS WHICH WERE UNNECESSARY.

3. KORNIYENKO SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF CRUISE MISSILES LIKENISE HAD NEVER BEEN MENTIONED AT VLADIVOSTOK, BUT THE US WAS NOW MAKING A BIG ISSUE OF THIS CATEGORY.

4. WHEN I MENTIONED THE ISSUE OF VERIFICATION OF THE MIRV SUB-LIMIT, KORNIYENKO AGREED THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT AND LEGITIMATE SUBJECT, AND HE IMPLIED THERE MIGHT BE SOME GIVE IN THE SOVIET POSITION IN THIS REGARD. HE REPEATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE SAW NO POSSIBILITY FOR THE SOVIETS TO MEET OUR POSITION ON THE BACKFIRE.

5. I DOUBT THIS ADDS VERY MUCH BUT I FELT I SHOULD PASS KORNIYENKO'S REMARKS ALONG AS OF POSSIBLE VALUE.

6. KORNIYENKO ALSO DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE STATUS OF MY PNE TALKS WITH MOROKHOV. HE FELT THIS WAS DEFINITELY SOMETHING WHICH SHOULD BE HOUND UP IN TIME FOR SIGNATURE AT THE US-SOVIET SUMMIT THIS FALL.

7. WARM REGARDS.

***** W H S R C O M M E N T *****

HAK, SCOWCROFT, MCPARLANE, RODMAN, LODAL

RECALLED

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