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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, SOCI, SCUL, UR
SUBJECT: LENINGRAD ZNANIYE LECTURE - AUGUST 27, 1986

1. SUMMARY. THE AUGUST 27 ZNANIYE LECTURE WAS A "ROUND-TABLE" DISCUSSION ON INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, BUT THE FOCUS WAS ON THE U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP. THE SPEAKERS PREDICTABLY VILIFIED THE U.S. MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, BUT CHARACTERIZED PRESIDENT REAGAN AS READY FORNTWTJRPCF OFH VX

9)80)E FAR EAST, NOTING THAT FRANCE, WEST GERMANY,

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CHINA AND JAPAN WERE ALL SHOWING INTEREST IN CONCILIATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD GAVE RISE TO THE PERSISTENT STORY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS AMENDING ITS CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW PRESIDENT REAGAN TO SERVE A THIRD TERM, BUT ALSO ALLOWED FOR DISCUSSION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN DEBT PROBLEM, YUGOSLAVIA'S COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP ARRANGEMENT AND THE SCANDAL SURROUNDING THE ELECTION OF KURT WALDHEIM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AUGUST 27 ZNANIYE LECTURE WAS ORIGINALLY ENTITLED "THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION OF THE SOVIET UNION", BUT WAS CHANGED TO A "ROUND-TABLE" DISCUSSION ON "FACTS AND FIGURES--THE WORLD TODAY." THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS DISCUSSION AROUND A RECTANGULAR TABLE WERE LEV KUZ'MICH LEBEDEV, A DOCTOR OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES AND A PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, AND ANDREY NIKOLAYEVICH ZOLOTAREV, AN "HONORED FIGURE OF SOVIET CULTURE." THE LECTURE WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 90 PERSONS, MOST OF WHOM WERE MEN ABOVE THE AGE OF FORTY.

3. SOVIET PEACE INITIATIVES

LEBEDEV OPENED THE DISCUSSION WITH MENTION THAT DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS, THE PEACE INITIATIVE AND THE PROGRAM FOR SWEEPING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGE APPROVED AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DITY CONGRESS WERE STEADILY GAINING FORCE. HE ADDED THAT THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S LBRCENT PROPOSAL FOR A NUCLEAR MORATORIUM WAS HAILED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. "EVEN IN AMERICA, THOUGH THEY CALL OUR MOVE PROPAGANDA, THEY UNDERSTAND THAT WE SEEK PEACE." ZOLOTAREV DISCUSSED THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN POSITION ON THE ISSUE, INCLUDING THE ARGUMENTS THAT THE U.S. REQUIRES BOMB TESTS IN ORDER TO CATCH UP ON RESEARCH THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS ALREADY CONDUCTED, AND THAT THE TESTS ARE ULTIMATELY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND HER ALLIES. HE STRESSED THAT THE U.S. MAKES THESE CONTENTIONS DESPITE THE FACT THAT 80 PERCENT OF AMERICANS ARE OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR TESTS, AND MOST OF THEM DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT THEY HAVE CONTINUED.

4. SABOTAGING THE SUMMIT

THE SPEAKERS BOTH OPINED THAT HAWKS IN THE ADMINISTRATION DO NOT WANT THE SUMMIT TO TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR. LEBEDEV NOTED THAT WHILE SECRETARY SHULTZ APPEARS READY FOR COMPROMISE, HE IS LOCKED IN A STRUGGLE WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY WEINBERGER, WHO IS OPPOSED TO CONCILIATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION. ZOLOTAREV SUGGESTED THAT SHULTZ IS SMARTER THAN WEINBERGER AND HAS A BROADER, AND THEREFORE MORE ACCURATE, VIEW OF HOW TO ACHIEVE PEACE. THE SPEAKERS ATTRIBUTED THIS MORE ACCURATE VIEW TO SHULTZ'S UNDERSTANDING OF NATO OPPOSITION TO AN ARMS RACE.

5. BUT REAGAN MOVING TOWARD THE PACT OF PEACE

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ZOLOTAREV THEN ADVANCED THE OPINION THAT EVEN PRESIDENT REAGAN IS BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CANNOT BE ACHIEVED UNTIL THE ARMS RACE IS ENDED. HE POINTED TO AN INTERVIEW THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN GAVE TO A MEXICAN CORRESPONDENT, AND NOTED REAGAN'S STATEMENT THAT THERE ARE NO WINNERS IN A NUCLEAR WAR. ZOLOTAREV APPLAUDED THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK, BUT ADDED THAT GORBACHEV ADVANCED THE SAME POINT MUCH EARLIER. THE SPEAKERS SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE ABANDONMENT OF THE SALT II AGREEMENT AND TO PARTICIPATE
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SERIOUSLY IN TALKS ABOUT REDUCING THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR WAS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S WILLINGNESS TO WORK FOR PEACE. "HOW FAR REAGAN HAS COME", NOTED ZOLOTAREV, "FROM HIS STATEMENTS ABOUT THROWING US ONTO THE ASH HEAP OF HISTORY." LEBEDEV ADDED THAT FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON'S "PRIVATE" TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION WAS REALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REQUESTING THAT THE SUMMIT BE HELD.

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6. EUROPE
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ZOLOTAREV NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH EUROPE WAS EMPLOYING THE HELSINKI PROCESS TO WORK TOWARD PEACE, THE SITUATION WAS STILL DANGEROUS. ACCORDING TO THE SPEAKER THIS DANGER WAS MANIFEST IN THE PRESENCE OF U.S. ROCKETS IN WESTERN EUROPE, THE OPPOSITION OF POWERFUL MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES TO PEACE AND IN THE BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN SUPPORT FOR SDI. HE NOTED THAT THE U.S. IS PROMOTING SDI WITH THE VOICE OF AMERICA IN AN ATTEMPT TO SWAY EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION AND TO LURE AWAY EUROPEAN SCIENTISTS.

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7. WEST GERMANY
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LEBEDEV, A SELF-PROFESSED "GERMANIST", THEN BEGAN A LONG ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IN WEST GERMANY. HE ASSERTED THAT KOHL IS IN DEEP TROUBLE AS THE COUNTRY APPROACHES THE 1987 ELECTIONS. HE IS PERCEIVED AS TOO

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"PROVINCIAL"; "HE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO LEARN ENGLISH OR FRENCH." THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS SEE HIS WEAKNESS AND ARE RALLYING THEIR FORCES. THEIR STRATEGY IS TO SIPHON VOTES FROM THE GREENS, BY SHIFTING TO THE LEFT AND BY CHAMPIONING THE UNEMPLOYED. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS SUPPORT A FREE MARKET, BUT BELIEVE IN A GREATER LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT THAN DO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. HE ADDED THAT THEY ALSO DISAGREE WITH SDI AND IN GENERAL SEEK A REDUCTION IN AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN EUROPE.

8. FRANCE AND GERMANY

ZOLOTAREV STATED THAT WESTERN EUROPE IS LEANING TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION, AS IS EVIDENCED BY INCREASING COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL TIES. THIS IS A RESULT, HE CLAIMED, OF THE EUROPEAN WISH TO BE FREE OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE. HE NOTED THAT MITTERRAND SHARED THIS VIEW WITH GORBACHEV WHEN HE VISITED THE SOVIET UNION. THE ENTRANCE OF CHIRAC WILL COMPLICATE MATTERS, ADDED LEBEDEV, "AND WHILE HE DOES NOT LIKE THE SOVIET UNION, WE MUST TREAT HIM AS A GOVERNMENT LEADER." ZOLOTAREV THEN CHARACTERIZED THE UNITED KINGDOM AS A PIVOTAL COUNTRY "BECAUSE THEY, MORE THAN ANYONE, CAN INFLUENCE THE UNITED STATES." HE POINTED OUT THAT ELECTIONS WILL ALSO BE HELD IN THE U.K. NEXT YEAR, AND ADDED WITH DELIGHT THAT A DELEGATION OF BRITISH TEACHERS AND DOCTORS RECENTLY VISITING LENINGRAD STRONGLY CRITICIZED THEIR PRIME MINISTER. AS A FINAL EXAMPLE OF IMPROVING TIES BETWEEN WESTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION, ZOLOTAREV POINTED TO THE RECENT REQUESTS BY BRITAIN AND WEST GERMANY TO INCLUDE THEIR ASTRONAUTS ON UPCOMING SOVIET SPACE MISSIONS.

9. FAR EAST

BOTH SPEAKERS AGREED THAT THE REGION OF THE FUTURE IS THE FAR EAST, WHERE ALMOST HALF OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE LIVE AND WHERE 30-40 PERCENT OF ALL THE WORLD'S REMAINING MINERAL DEPOSITS ARE LOCATED. HE NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG SOUGHT "TO SETTLE" THE AREA.

A. JAPAN--THE SPEAKERS SPECULATED THAT BECAUSE NAKASONE HAS ALREADY VISITED THE SOVIET UNION TWICE, GORBACHEV
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WILL PROBABLY MAKE A TRIP TO JAPAN SOON, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY NOT TILL NEXT YEAR. LEBEDEV JOKED THAT WHILE CHINA OPENED ITS NEW FOREIGN POLICY WITH PING-PONG, JAPAN APPEARS TO BE DOING THE SAME IN RELATION TO THE SOVIET UNION WITH GRAVE VISITS. HE NOTED THAT JAPAN HAS SPENT USD 120 BILLION DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS ON DEFENSE, BUT THAT THE FIGURE WAS LIKELY TO RISE IN LIGHT OF U.S. PRESSURE. HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. IS NOW PANICKING AT THE PROSPECT OF A WELL-ARMED JAPAN, AND IS INSISTING THAT THE LEVEL OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES BE REDUCED. HE STRESSED THAT THE U.S. TRIED TO PLAY THE CHINA CARD BY OFFERING THE CHINESE SOPHISTICATED MILITARY TECHNOLOGY, BUT THAT THIS MOVE ONLY SUCCEEDED IN ANGERING THE JAPANESE, WHO FELT LEFT OUT.

B. CHINA--ZOLOTAREV THEN EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL DESIRE THAT A RECONCILIATION WITH CHINA BE ACHIEVED AND NOTED THAT THE CHINESE APPEAR TO BE EMBRACING THE SAME GOAL. HE SUGGESTED THAT CHINA, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF ITS INTEREST IN BECOMING THE LEADER OF THE THIRD WORLD, WAS STRESSING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WAS TRYING TO MAKE AMENDS WITH ITS OTHER IMPORTANT NEIGHBOR, INDIA.

10. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
- INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH WOULD ALLOW A
- PRESIDENT TO SERVE A THIRD TERM?
- A. THE IDEA WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED. THE DEMOCRATS WOULD
- ALL LINE UP IN OPPOSITION IMMEDIATELY, AND PERHAPS
- MANY OTHERS AS WELL. IF THE ERA COULD NOT PASS AS
- A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WITH LESS OPPOSITION,
- THIS IS DOOMED TO CERTAIN FAILURE. THE IDEA SEEMS
- DEAD.
- Q. IN 1985, THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES RESOLVED TO
- CURE THEIR DEBT PROBLEMS. WHAT HAPPENED?
- A. OF COURSE THE ONLY WAY TO WORK OUT OF DEBT IS TO
- STIMULATE DEVELOPMENT, BUT THESE COUNTRIES CAN'T
- ACHIEVE THAT UNTIL THEY ACQUIRE RESOURCES. THEY
- COULD CONSIDER THE IDEA OF FIDEL CASTRO, TO CAST OFF
- ALL DEBTS, BUT OF COURSE THIS IS NOT THE WAY EITHER.
- IT WILL BE A SLOW PROCESS.
- Q. WHAT WAS THE OPPOSITION TO WALDHEIM BASED ON?
- A. ZIONIST CIRCLES SPREAD RUMORS THAT HE COMMITTED CRIMES

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- AGAINST JEWS DURING THE WAR. IN HIS MEMOIRS, HE
- NOTED THAT HE SERVED IN THE AUSTRIAN ARMY AND WAS
- WOUNDED. BASICALLY, NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE WAS
- ADVANCED THAT COULD PROVE HIS GUILT. ZIONIST CIRCLES
- WERE OUT TO GET HIM, OF COURSE, BECAUSE HE SPOKE
- ON BEHALF OF PALESTINIAN INDEPENDENCE. AFTER ALL,
- IF HE HAD COMMITTED THESE ATROCITIES, AND THE
- YUGOSLAVS CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE KNOWN, WHY DID TITO
- AWARD HIM YUGOSLAVIA'S HIGHEST HONOR?

-
Q. IS THE YUGOSLAV SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP
- WORTHWHILE?

A. GOVERNMENT POLICY HASN'T CHANGED, BUT NOW THE SYSTEM
- IS MORE COMPLEX. THE ECONOMIC PROGRAM ADOPTED
- SEVERAL YEARS AGO IS NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED BECAUSE
- OF THESE COMPLEXITIES. ONLY BECAUSE ONE MILLION
- OF THEIR PEOPLE WORK ABROAD DO THEY MANAGE TO STAY
- AFLOAT. YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION
- ARE GROWING.

Q. WHY DOES THE UNITED STATES REJECT OUR PROPOSAL FOR A
- MORATORIUM?

A. IT IS THE INFLUENCE OF THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL
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- CMMPLEX. THE U.S. HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE SIGN AN
- AGREEMENT STATING THAT NO SPACE WEAPONS BE DEVELOPED
- FOR THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS, BUT THE U.S. WON'T GET
- THEIR WEAPONS INTO SPACE ANYWAY FOR ANOTHER TEN YEARS.
- THE LACK OF TRUST BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES IS THE
- GREATEST OBSTACLE TOWARD PEACE. WE FEAR AND MISTRUST
- ONE ANOTHER. AND THE UNITED STATES IS SNARLED IN
- DISAGREEMENT ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUATION.

Q. WHY DID THE USSR DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON NUCLEAR
- EXPLOSIONS AND OTHER NATIONS DID NOT? (LAUGHTER)

A. BECAUSE THE USSR IS ONE OF THE FEW POWERS THAT NEEDS
- TO CONDUCT TESTS, AND BECAUSE WE SEEK PEACE.

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LEBEDEV AND ZOLOTAREV CONCLUDED THEIR DISCUSSION BY
EXPRESSING THEIR SINCERE BELIEF THAT THE SUPERPOWER
SUMMIT WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR.

SCHUMAKER

END OF MESSAGE

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