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# WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 OF 04 SECSTATE WASHDC 2775  
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E.O. 12356 DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, UR, US  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S 7/27 LETTER TO CHERNENKO

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1. ~~S~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. AMBASSADOR SHOULD DELIVER THE LETTER BEGINNING PARA 3 FROM THE PRESIDENT TO CHERNENKO ALONG WITH THE DRAFT STATEMENT AT HIGHEST AVAILABLE LEVEL OF THE MFA ON SATURDAY. IN DELIVERING THE LETTER AND DRAFT STATEMENT, THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD STRESS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PRESIDENT IN APPROACHING THE MEETING IN VIENNA. HE SHOULD ALSO MAKE THE FOLLOWING TWO POINTS:
  - A) ON THE SOVIET MORATORIUM PROPOSAL: WE WOULD CONSIDER LANGUAGE IN THE STATEMENT WHICH STATES THAT BOTH SIDES WILL CONSIDER WHAT MUTUAL RESTRAINTS ON ACTIVITIES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 04 SECSTATE WASHDC 2775

DTG: 280510Z JUL 84 PSN: 05759

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B) WE OFFER THE PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT, IF QUESTIONED ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE PHRASE "MILITARIZATION OF OUTER SPACE," THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT IT REFERS TO PROPOSALS WHICH EITHER SIDE MAY MAKE RELEVANT TO THIS MATTER.

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3. BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER: DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

- CANDOR SHOULD BE AN ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF OUR DIALOGUE GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OUR TWO OFFICES. THUS, I MUST BE FRANK IN INFORMING YOU THAT I AM SURPRISED BY YOUR LETTER OF JULY 26, 1984, SINCE IT DRAWS CONCLUSIONS WHICH ARE NOT WARRANTED BY THE EXPLANATIONS I HAVE GIVEN YOU.

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- MR. CHAIRMAN, SINCE RECEIVING YOUR PROPOSAL TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE "MILITARIZATION OF OUTER SPACE" ON JUNE 29, I HAVE BELIEVED THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PROGRESS IN ARMS CONTROL IN AN AREA OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE. THIS IS WHY I IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTED YOUR PROPOSAL AND IN SUBSEQUENT LETTERS AND DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES SUGGESTED THAT OUR REPRESENTATIVES GET DOWN TO WORK ON DEVELOPING AN AGREED FORMULATION FOR THE VIENNA MEETING, SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS THERE COULD LEAD TO MEANINGFUL RESULTS.

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- THUS, I AM DISTURBED THAT IN YOUR MOST RECENT LETTER, YOU MISREPRESENT OUR POSITION. LET ME ONCE AGAIN MAKE THE US POSITION ABSOLUTELY CLEAR. AS I STATED IN MY LETTER TO YOU OF JULY 2, YOUR PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON THE "MILITARIZATION OF OUTER SPACE" REMAINS "AN EXCELLENT IDEA." THE CONCEPT OF THE "MILITARIZATION OF OUTER SPACE" IS A BROAD ONE, AND AS I HAVE INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, IN MY VIEW ACCOMODATES OFFENSIVE AS WELL AS DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS. YOUR SIDE MAY HAVE A DIFFERENT CONCEPT, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING AT THIS STAGE IS FOR OUR NEGOTIATORS TO MEET IN VIENNA AND WORK OUT WHATEVER DIFFERENCES MAY EXIST.

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# WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 03 OF 04 SECSTATE WASHDC 2775

DTG: 280510Z JUL 84 PSN: 05759

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- SO, MR. CHAIRMAN, CONTRARY TO YOUR ASSERTION IN YOUR LATEST LETTER, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED FOR TALKS ON THE "MILITARIZATION OF OUTER SPACE" WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. I MUST REMIND YOU THAT IT IS THE SOVIET UNION, NOT THE UNITED STATES, THAT SEEMS UNWILLING TO REACH NEGOTIATED SOLUTIONS TO IMPORTANT MILITARY PROBLEMS. IT WAS, AFTER ALL, THE SOVIET UNION AND NOT THE UNITED STATES THAT LEFT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERMEDIATE RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES IN GENEVA. AND IT IS THE SOVIET UNION AND NOT THE UNITED STATES THAT CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO COOPERATE ON THE IMPORTANT TASK OF REDUCING STRATEGIC ARMS. THUS, MR. CHAIRMAN, YOUR LATEST LETTER RAISES A QUESTION IN MY MIND ABOUT WHETHER, HAVING MADE A PROPOSAL TO GO TO VIENNA, YOU ARE NOW BACKING AWAY FROM IT. I HOPE THIS IS NOT THE CASE.

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- IF, AS YOU SAY IN YOUR LATEST LETTER, YOUR PROPOSAL STILL STANDS, I THINK IT IS TIME NOW FOR OUR REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK OUT THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE

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MEETING IN VIENNA, INCLUDING, IF POSSIBLE, A JOINT STATEMENT. I HAVE INSTRUCTED SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ TO CONTINUE THIS EFFORT. IF YOUR SIDE APPROACHES THIS TASK WITH THE GOOD WILL AND SERIOUS INTENT WHICH IS THE BASIS OF MY APPROACH, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN SERVE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. RONALD REAGAN.  
END TEXT OF LETTER.

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4. BEGIN TEXT OF DRAFT STATEMENT: JOINT SOVIET-AMERICAN STATEMENT. AS-A RESULT OF EXCHANGES THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS BETWEEN THE USA-AND THE USSR, AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED-TO OPEN TALKS WITH THE AIM OF WORKING OUT AND CONCLUDING AGREEMENTS CONCERNING THE MILITARIZATION OF OUTER -SPACE, INCLUDING ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEMS AND OTHER-ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE. THE TALKS WILL BEGIN IN VIENNA ON SEPTEMBER 18,

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 04 OF 04 SECSTATE WASHDC 2775 DTG: 280510Z JUL 84 PSN: 05759

1984, AT THE LEVEL OF SPECIALLY APPOINTED DELEGATIONS.

ENDTEXT.

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