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SMF 11/1/2007

File Folder GORBACHEV SPEECHES [CHERNOBYL, MAY 1986]

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S2007-080

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

*File
Gorbachev
speeches*

PAGE 01 OF 04 **MOSCOW 8261**
SIT974

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 04 MOSCOW 8261

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PASS EPA

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, IAEA, UR
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' UPDATE

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

GORBACHEV SPEECH AND PROPOSALS

2. WE ASSUME MOST ADDRESSEES ARE FAMILIAR WITH MAIN POINTS OF GORBACHEV CHERNOBYL' -RELATED SPEECH EVENING OF MAY 14. FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT BE, WE NOTE GORBACHEV MADE FOUR CONCRETE PROPOSALS:

- -- FIRST, "TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME OF SAFE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY ON THE BASIS OF CLOSE COOPERATION OF ALL STATES INVOLVED IN NUCLEAR ENERGY." THIS WOULD INCLUDE A SYSTEM OF NOTIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS AT NUCLEAR REACTORS, "ESPECIALLY WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY EMISSIONS OF RADIOACTIVITY." HE ALSO CALLED FOR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MECHANISMS FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF REACTOR ACCIDENTS.

- -- SECOND, TO CALL A SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN VIENNA UNDER THE AUSPICES OF IAEA TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS.

- -- THIRD, TO INCREASE THE ROLE AND CAPABILITIES OF IAEA, SINCE ITS RESOURCES AND STATUS "DO NOT CORRESPOND TO THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT OF CONTEMPORARY NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY."

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 03 OF 04 MOSCOW 8261

DTG: 151431Z MAY 86 PSN: 041939

- -- FOURTH, TO INCREASE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE UN, WHO AND UNEP IN "MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SAFE DEVELOPMENT OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ACTIVITY."

(COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, OF COURSE, WHAT THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE IN MIND, BUT IT STRIKES US THAT POINT THREE ESPECIALLY COULD LEAD TO A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN POLICY VIS-A-VIS IAEA AND ZERO-GROWTH BUDGETING. END COMMENT.)

SOVIET REPLY TO EMBASSY NOTE

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE EMBASSY'S INQUIRY BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON APRIL 30, THE MFA HAS INFORMED US THAT "IT IS SAFE FOR TOURISTS TO VISIT KIEV."

(COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS TO BE DISINGENUOUS AT BEST. END COMMENT.)

4. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE FRG EMBASSY REPORTS THAT SOVIET BANK OF FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS ARE PRESSING HARD FOR GERMAN BANKERS TO GO AHEAD WITH AN ANNUAL BANKING SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR KIEV LATER THIS MONTH. THE FRG EMBASSY IS STRONGLY ADVISING THAT THE MEETING BE MOVED TO

MOSCOW OR ANOTHER SOVIET CITY. THE GERMANS ALSO REPORT THAT THE SOVIETS READILY AGREED EARLIER TO SHIFT A BILATERAL MEETING ON ISLAND TRANSPORT FROM KIEV TO MOSCOW.

SOME NON-WESTERN EMBASSY REACTIONS

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 04 OF 04 MOSCOW 8261

DTG: 151431Z MAY 86 PSN: 041939

5. THE INDIAN DCM (PROTECT) REPORTED MAY 13
THAT OVER 20 INDIAN STUDENTS WERE STUDYING
IN THE KIEV AREA. THEY HAVE NOT INDICATED
ANY PARTICULAR CONCERN, HE SAID. ALTHOUGH THE
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PAGE 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 8261
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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 03 MOSCOW 8261

DTG: 151431Z MAY 86 PSN: 041940

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E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KSCA, TRGY, IAEA, JL
SUBJECT: CHERNOBYL' UPDATE

INDIAN EMBASSY HAS OFFERED TO HELP ANY OF THEM TO LEAVE EARLY IF DESIRED, NOT ONE STUDENT HAS DONE SO -- THEY WISH TO COMPLETE THEIR SEMESTER UNINTERRUPTED. THE GUYANESE DCM REPORTED SIMILAR REACTIONS AMONG GUYANESE STUDENTS IN THE AREA, INCLUDING ONE REPORTEDLY LIVING SOME 50 KM FROM CHERNOBYL'. THE CZECH POLCOUNS REPORTED NO PARTICULAR CONCERN AMONG CZECH STUDENTS IN THE AREA -- POSSIBLY A PREDICTABLE COMMENT GIVEN THE CZECH GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THIS DISASTER.

FRG MONITORING TEAM

6. AN FRG RADIATION MONITORING TEAM ARRIVED IN MOSCOW MONDAY EVENING. THEY HAVE MEASURED ONLY BACKGROUND LEVELS OF RADIATION AROUND THE FRG EMBASSY.

LATE REPORT: GALE PRESS CONFERENCE

7. THE MAY 15 PRESS CONFERENCE BY DR. ROBERT GALE (UCLA) LEFT THE ATTENDEES WITH LITTLE NEW INFORMATION ON THE EXTENT OF SOVIET CASULTIES IN THE CHERNOBYL' ACCIDENT. ACCORDING TO GALE, 299 SOVIETS HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO SUBSTANTIAL LEVELS OF RADIATION (SAME FIGURE USED BY

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 03 OF 03 MOSCOW 8261

DTG: 151431Z MAY 86 PSN: 041940

GORBACHEV IN LAST NIGHT'S SPEECH); OF THESE, THIRTY-FIVE RECEIVED THE HIGHEST LEVELS. GALE AND COLLEAGUES PERFORMED TRANSPLANTS ON NINETEEN OF THE THIRTY-FIVE; THE REMAINING PATIENTS EITHER DID NOT NEED TRANSPLANTS OR HAD SUFFERED IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE. THE NINETEEN ARE DOING "REASONABLY WELL." NOTING THAT TWENTY-EIGHT OF THE THIRTY-FIVE ARE STILL ALIVE, GALE ADDED THE "FURTHER DEATHS ARE UNAVOIDABLE."

8. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE RUMOR THAT A SWISS FIRM ENCOUNTERED SEVERE SOVIET BUREAUCRATIC OPPOSITION IN GETTING ITS DONATED MEDICINES INTO MOSCOW, GALE NOTED THAT, WHILE THERE HAD BEEN SOME DELAYS, ALL THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES HAD ARRIVED. THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD ALSO YIELDED THE STATEMENT THAT NONE OF THE VICTIMS BEING TREATED BY GALE HAD RECEIVED THEIR RADIATION DOSES WHILE IN THE TOWNS OF CHERNOBYL' OR PRIPYAT.

COMBS

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