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By JK NARA Date 6/19



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TELEGRAM

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August 9, 8:25 PM 1971

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FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH FROM FARLEY

SUBJECT: AUGUST 9 VERIFICATION PANEL MEETING

TODAY'S VERIFICATION PANEL MEETING WAS NOT ENCOURAGING, THROUGH THE INSTRUCTIONS WE EVENTUALLY GET ARE NOT ALWAYS FORESHADOWED BY SUCH PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS. I WILL TRY TO GIVE THE GENERAL TREND AND FLAVOR RATHER THAN A DETAILED ACCOUNT.

HENRY OPENED WITH SOME REMARKS ABOUT THE SLOWNESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE, THE WAY RATHER ACADEMIC ISSUES KEPT SURFACING, AND THE NEED TO CLEAN UP ISSUES SO THAT THE DELEGATION COULD GET DOWN TO BUSINESS OF CARRYING OUT THE MAY 20 ANNOUNCEMENT. HE REMARKED RATHER OSTENTATIIOUSLY THAT HE HAD TROUBLE EXPLAINING TO THE PRESIDENT THIS MORNING WHAT THE ISSUES ARE WHICH STAND IN THE WAY OF ORDERLY PROGRESS.

HE THEN MOVED TO THE ZERO ABM ISSUE, SAYING THAT IN THE CONTACTS LEADING TO THE MAY 20 ANNOUNCEMENT IT HAD BEEN UNDERSTOOD THAT AN ABM BAN WAS EXCLUDED, BUT THE MATTER HAD COME UP JUST BEFORE HELSINKI AND HAD BEEN RAISED WITH DOBRYNIN, AND THEN BY SMITH WITH SEMONOV. NOW THE BALL WAS IN OUR COURT TO MAKE A PROPOSAL AND THE PROBLEM WAS HOW WE PROCEED WITHOUT BEING DRAWN INTO EXTENSIVE AND CONFUSING NEGOTIATIONS THAT WOULD CONFLICT WITH THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF AN AGREEMENT THIS YEAR.

THE FLOOR WAS THEN GIVEN IN SUCCESSION TO PACKARD, MITCHELL, AND HELMS. PACKARD TOOK A STRONG LINE THAT THE ABM BAN WAS A COMPLICATING FACTOR AT THIS STAGE. IT WOULD NOT ONLY DELAY PROGRESS, BUT IF ACHIEVED WOULD PUT US IN A SITUATION WHERE WE HAD GIVEN UP ALL OUR BARGAINING LEVERAGE FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS. IF WE MADE AN ABM BAN PROPOSAL, THEREFORE, IT SHOULD BE ON THE PREMISE THAT IT SHOULD BE MATCHED BY SOVIET OFFENSIVE REDUCTIONS. PREFERABLY, THE ABM BAN SHOULD BE PUT OFF TO THE NEXT STAGE WHEN BOTH OFFENSIVE LIMITATIONS AND REDUCTIONS WERE BEING DISCUSSED AS A QUID PRO QUID. MITCHELL AND HELMS SUPPORTED THIS LINE, AS DID MOORER LATER.

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To Mr. A. ... 145329 8/10/71

