## Department of State

## INCOMING

## DECAPTIONED

SECKET

NOU985

PAGE 01 MUSCUW 27530 ACTION NODS-00

0CT-01 AUS-00

**0**06809

D 171438Z DEC 79 2FF-4 FH AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHUC IMMEDIATE 5523

S E C R E T MUSCOW 27530

NGDIS

KDS-1 12/17/99 (WATSON, THOMAS J.) OR-M TAGS: PEPR, MILI, AF, UR, US, IR AMBASSAOOR'S MEETING WITH MAL! TSEV ON SUVIE! MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS AND IRAN

STATE 323581, B. MUSCOW 27491, C. STATE 323556

- (S-ENTIRE TEXT)
- THE SOVIETS DID NOT RESPOND TO OUR HEGUEST FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THEIR DEPLOYMENTS INTO AFGHANISTAN. TOTAL PRESENTATION WAS ESSENTIALLY A REBUFF. MY CONVERSA-TION WAS WITH FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MALITSEY THIS AFTERNOUN (DECEMBER 17).
- AFTER HEARING MY PRESENTATION, MALITSEY SAID THE MINISTRY HAD BEEN SURPRISED AND PUZZLED BY THE NATURE OF THE QUESTION HE HISHED TO PUSE, AS HE EXPLAINED IT TO KOMPLEKTOV ON SATURDAY NIGHT (REF B), AND THAT HE WAS AGAIN SURPRISED AND PUZZLED BY BOTH THE FORM AND CONTENT OF THE QUESTION AS I PUT IT TODAY. WHO KNOWS, HE ASKED RHETORICALLY, what kind of information we had, or what KIND OF "INVENTIONS" LAY BEHIND OUR QUESTIONS
- MALITSEV THEN DESCRIBED SOVIET-AFGHAN RELATIONS AS SECKE1

From the NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE, The Gelman Library, 2130 H Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington DC, 2003



### Department of State

# **INCOMING TELEGRAM**

ly, 2130 H Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington DC, 20037

From the NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE, The Gelman

#### SECRET

### PAGE BECAPTIONED 27530 1714412

BEING BETWEEN THU SUVEREIGN STATES AND THE BUSINESS ONLY OF THOSE THU STATES, NOT SUBJECT TO INTERFERENCE FRUM THIRO STATES. IN EXPRESSING SUMPRISE AT THE "FORM AND CONTENT" OF OUR REQUEST, HE CONTINUED, HE HAD IN MIND THE REFERENCE TO THE 1972 BASIC PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONS. THAT DOCUMENT, HE SAID, HAD NO RELATIONSHIP TO THIS SITUATION. "THAT," HE CONCLUDED, "IS THE ANSWER I CAN GIVE YOU."

5. I RESPONDED THAT I THOUGHT THE COMMUNICATION I HAD RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON ON SATURDAY WAS MORE SERIOUS THAN TO BE CHARACTERIZED AS AN "INVENTION" BUT ADDED THAT, IF THATHAS MAL'TSEV'S CHARACTERIZATION OF IT, I WOULD BE GLAD TO PASS IT BACK TO WASHINGTON. AS FOR HIS COMMENTS ON THE 1972 BASIC PRINCIPLES, I SAID I ASSUMED HE HAD THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHETHER A GIVEN SITUATION WAS COVERED OR NOT. BUT I THOUGHT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THAT IT THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT OF O.S. FORCES INTO AREAS WHERE THEY HAD NEVER BEEN BEFORE, MAL'TSEV MIGHT WELL BE ASKING ME QUESTIONS. MAL'TSEV SAID THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT HE HAD ALREADY SAID.

6. MENTIUNING THAT I HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE U.S., I THEN SPOKE BRIEFLY OF THE MOOD OF THE COUNTRY AS I PER CEIVED IT. AFTER NOTING THE UNIVERSAL REGRET AT THE BOMBING OF THE SOVIET UN MISSION, I REFERRED TO THE CHANGE OF MOOD IN THE U.S. AND THE UNANIMOUS FEELING OF INDIGNATION UVER THE TEHRAN HUSTAGE SITUATION. POINTING OUT THAT I WAS SPEAKING STRICTLY PERSONALLY, I SAID THAT A SOVIET EFFORT TO HELP, BY WORKING BILATERALLY WITH IRAN, IN EXTRICATING OUR HOSTAGES COULD BE VERY BENEFICIAL TO DUK BILATERAL RELATIONS. MALTISEV OFFERED NO ENCOURAGEMENT. HE SAID SECRET



## Department of State

## INCOMING TELEGRAM

From the NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE, The Gelman Library, 2130 H Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington DC, 20037

## DECAPTIONED

SECRET

PAGE 03

MUSCOW 27530 1714412

THAT, WHILE THE SUVIET UNION CONSISTENTLY ADVOCATED AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS AND ACSO HAD MADE CLEAR ITS SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW, TO ATTEMPT TO PLAY ANY KIND OF INTERMEDIARY ROLE IN THE HOSTAGE SITUATION WOULD AMOUNT TO INTERVENTION IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND IRAN.

7. AFTER THE MEETING, USA DEPARTMENT CHIEF KOMPLEKTOV TOLD ME THAT AMMASSAUGH DOBRYNIN IS IN THE HUSPITAL FOR A ROUTINE CHECK-UP AND WILL PROBABLY DE BACK IN WASHINGTON IN A WEEK OF TEN DAYS. KORNIYENKU, HE SAID, IS UN VACATION AND NOT EXPECTED BACK IN THE MINISTRY UNTIL JANUARY 10. WATSON BT #7530

NNN

SECHET