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TAGS= PARM, SOPN, MPOL, PORS, MNUC, US, UR, PL, (REAGAN, RONALD), (CARTER,
JIMMY)

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Lia. *AG*
 Release () Exempt () Deny () Declassify
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 335183
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 OIC-02 AF-10
CIAE-00 EA-12 DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NEA-07 NSC-05
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UNCLAS STATE 335183

E.O. 12065:N/A

TAGS:PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT:DECEMBER 18 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 335183

1. CHICAGO TRIBUNE REPORTED THAT U.S. AND SOVIET ARMS
NEGOTIATORS ENDED THEIR SIXTH SESSION OF INF TALKS YESTER-
DAY IN GENEVA AND DECIDED TO MEET AGAIN EARLY NEXT YEAR.
MEETING AT SOVIET MISSION LASTED ONE HOUR AND 45 MINUTES,
SHORTEST SESSION SINCE TALKS BEGAN NOV. 30. TRIBUNE
REPORTED THAT BRIEF U.S. STATEMENT SAID NEXT MEETING WOULD
TAKE PLACE JAN. 12. "CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR HOLIDAY RECESS IS

TO PERMIT DELEGATES TO BE WITH THEIR FAMILIES," STATEMENT SAID. TRIBUNE SAID BRIEF U.S. STATEMENT WAS IN LINE WITH AN AGREEMENT AT START OF TALKS TO MAINTAIN TOTAL NEWS BLACKOUT ON NEGOTIATIONS. APART FROM FIRST PLANNING SESSION, AVERAGE-LENGTH OF MEETINGS SO FAR HAS BEEN TWO HOURS, WITH LONGEST SESS,ON AT THREE HOURS, 40 MINUTES, ON DEC. 11. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR NITZE WILL STOP IN BRUSSELS TO BRIEF NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON INF TALKS BEFORE GOING TO WASHINGTON.

2. CHARLES CORDDRY OF BALTIMORE SUN SAID HIGH-RANKING DEFENSE OFFICIAL SUGGESTED YESTERDAY THAT ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN POLAND COULD CAUSE WASHINGTON BREAK OFF NUCLEAR ARMS TALKS WITH MOSCOW, EVEN IF SOVIET UNION DID NOT INVADE POLAND. WHITE HOUSE SOURCES STATED THAT ASSISTANT DEFENSE SECRETARY RICHARD PERLE WAS EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL OPINION. THESE SOURCES EMPHASIZED, CORDDRY REPORTED, THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN REFUSED AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY TO SPECULATE ON SPECIFIC COURSES OPEN TO U.S. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS IN POLAND. PERLE TOLD REPORTERS THAT "OBVIOUS LINE" FOR CONSIDERING SUSPENSION OF ARMS TALKS AND OTHER MEASURES WOULD COME WITH "DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF SOVIET MILITARY FORCES" IN POLAND. EXPRESSING PERSONAL VIEW, PERLE SAID, "I CAN IMAGINE DEGREE OF VIOLENCE SHORT OF INVASION THAT WOULD MAKE US CONSIDER SAME UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 335183

SORTS OF MEASURES THAT WE WOULD IF SOVIETS INVADED DIRECTLY." PERLE ALSO SAID HE "WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF WE RETURN TO (INF) TALKS ON SCHEDULE IF POLAND IS INVADED."

3. BERNARD NOSSITER OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, IN SPEECH TO COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHARGED PRESIDENT REAGAN WITH DRASTICALLY DEPARTING FROM TREATIES TO CURB STRATEGIC WEAPONS, WITH UNDERMINING CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, AND WITH THREATENING U.S. LINKS TO CHINA. NOSSITER SAID CARTER, IN HIS FIRST FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS SINCE LEAVING WHITE HOUSE, FOUND ALMOST NOTHING TO PRAISE AND NEARLY EVERYTHING TO FAULT IN REAGAN'S FOREIGN RECORD. ONE EXCEPTION, WHICH CARTER CALLED "STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION," WAS REAGAN'S RECENT PROPOSAL TO ABANDON PLANS TO PLACE NEW MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES IN EUROPE IN EXCHANGE FOR SOVIET UNION'S DISMANTLING OF MISSILES IT ALREADY HAS DEPLOYED, NOSSITER REPORTED.

4. FOX BUTTERFIELD OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID MEETING FOUR SCIENTISTS HAD THIS WEEK AT WHITE HOUSE WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS "ANOTHER INDICATION OF GROWING STRENGTH OF ANTINUCLEAR ARMS MOVEMENT, WHICH HAS PICKED UP MOMENTUM THIS FALL WITH SUPPORT FROM CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, SCIENTISTS AND DOCTORS." DELEGATION, HEADED BY MIT PRO-

FESSOR EMERITUS VICTOR WEISSKOPF, MET WITH PRESIDENT AT REQUEST OF POPE JOHN PAUL II. DR. HOWARD HIATT, DEAN OF HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SAID HE DESCRIBED TO PRESIDENT REAGAN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF ONE MEGATON BOMB WAS EXPLODED OVER WASHINGTON. "GIVEN THESE FACTS," HIATT SAID, "THOSE PEOPLE WHO TALK ABOUT WINNING OR SURVIVING NUCLEAR WAR DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT." ANOTHER MEMBER OF DELEGATION, NOBEL LAUREATE DAVID BALTIMORE, MIT PROFESSOR OF MICROBIOLOGY, TOLD PRESIDENT THAT GROUP WAS NOT ADVOCATING UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT OR ARGUING AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER. FOURTH MEMBER WAS NOBEL LAUREATE MARSHALL NIRENBERG, PROFESSOR OF GENETICS AND BIOCHEMISTRY AT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 335183

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH. BUTTERFIELD SAID SOME SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THAT WEISSKOPF MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERESTING THE POPE IN ARMS CONTROL ISSUE. BUT, WEISSKOPF TOLD BUTTERFIELD, IT WAS PONTIFF HIMSELF WHO TOOK INITIATIVE. BESIDES, WEISSKOPF SAID, "THE POPE GETS HIS INSPIRATION FROM GOD, NOT FROM A VIENNESE JEW."

5. PHILIP BOFFEY OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE OF "YELLOW RAIN" POWDER OBTAINED BY ABC NEWS HAS DETECTED MAN-MADE CHEMICAL THAT DOES NOT OCCUR IN NATURE AS WELL AS FOUR POISONS THAT ARE PRODUCED BY FUNGI. BOFFEY SAID "DISCOVERY APPEARS TO BUTTRESS ASSERTIONS THAT CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS HAVE BEEN DROPPED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND TO UNDERCUT SUGGESTIONS THAT TOXINS FOUND IN PREVIOUS SAMPLES OF YELLOW RAIN RESULTED FROM NORMAL BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES." ABC IS SCHEDULED TO BROADCAST TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY, "RAIN OF TERROR," MONDAY EVENING. DR. MATTHEW MESELSON, HARVARD BIOLOGIST AND EXPERT ON CHEMICAL WARFARE, CAUTIONED THAT ABC NEWS HAS NOT MADE ENOUGH INFORMATION PUBLIC ON HOW SAMPLE WAS COLLECTED AND HANDLED TO BE CERTAIN WHAT FINDINGS MEAN. HE WARNED THAT SAMPLE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INADVERTENTLY CONTAMINATED IN ITS HANDLING OR THAT SAMPLE MIGHT HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY ALTERED. HE SAID IT IS CRUCIAL THAT SOME SAMPLES TO BE COLLECTED DIRECTLY BY TRAINED AMERICANS.

6. WALL STREET JOURNAL EDITORIALY COMMENTED ON ABC DOCUMENTARY, SAYING "ON BASIS OF AN ADVANCE SCREENING, WE CAN REPORT THAT IT IS QUITE SIMPLY BEST PIECE OF TELEVISION JOURNALISM WE'VE EVER WITNESSED." JOURNAL SAID "SOVIET-BACKED AND TREATY-SHATTERING USE OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SEEMS TO US ONE OF MOST DRAMATIC AND MOST SIGNIFICANT NEWS STORIES OF YEAR, BUT IT WASN'T TREATED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 335183

THAT WAY BY EITHER OUR MEDIA COLLEAGUES OR U.S. GOVERN-
MENT." HAIG

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