

-- WE STRONGLY REGRET THE ACTION YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN ON TNF AND THE IMMEDIATE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO IT.

-- THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN ON A MATTER OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE ALLIANCE AND TO THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT ANY CONSULTATION, AND IN THE FINAL MOMENTS OF A LONG ALLIED PROCESS OF CONSULTATION AND CONSENSUS BUILDING.

-- WE ARE ESPECIALLY SURPRISED THAT AN INITIATIVE OF THIS SCOPE AND POTENTIALLY DAMAGING CONSEQUENCE HAS BEEN TAKEN BY DENMARK, WHICH IS NOT A CANDIDATE FOR LRINF DEPLOYMENTS AND WHICH ENJOYS A SPECIAL POSITION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE CONCERNING THE STATIONING OF FORCES ON ITS TERRITORY.

-- IN OUR VIEW, THE FACT AND SUBSTANCE OF THE DANISH INITIATIVE COMBINED WITH THE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO IT WILL -- IF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT PURSUES IT -- SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE THE SOLIDARITY OF THE ALLIANCE AND ITS CAPACITY TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. IT WILL NOT, HOWEVER, ALTER US DETERMINATION TO SEEK A FIRM DEPLOYMENT AND ARMS CONTROL DECISION IN DECEMBER, AND TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON IT.

-- THE IDEAS OF A "POSTPONEMENT", "DECISION IN PRINCIPLE," OR "MORATORIUM" CONCERNING TNF DEPLOYMENTS WERE EXTENSIVELY EXAMINED BY THIS GOVERNMENT AND IN THE SG PROCEEDINGS AND ITS FINAL REPORT.

-- THIS APPROACH WAS REJECTED FOR THESE COMPELLING REASONS: (A) IT WOULD CONNOTE HESITATION AND DOUBT IN MOVING TO MEET THE ALLIANCE'S REAL DEFENSE NEEDS, DOCUMENTED IN THE HLG REPORT; (B) IT WOULD SEVERELY DAMAGE THE PROSPECTS FOR MEANINGFUL TNF ARMS CONTROL BY REDUCING SOVIET INCENTIVES TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS.

-- THE ALLIANCE'S DECISION AS CURRENTLY ENVISAGED INCLUDES A SERIOUS ARMS CONTROL APPROACH, AND THE DANES HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTORS TO IT. IF THE SOVIETS HAVE A REAL INTEREST IN MODIFYING NATO'S TNF DEPLOYMENT THROUGH CONCRETE ARMS CONTROL RESULTS, THIS PATH WILL BE OPEN. WE HAVE SAID THAT THERE CAN BE A DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENT IN THE SCALE OF THE TNF DEPLOYMENT IN LIGHT OF CONCRETE ARMS CONTROL RESULTS.

-- INDEED, THE CURRENT ALLIED APPROACH IS MORE POLITICALLY SUSTAINABLE AND AMBITIOUS THAN WHAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IS NOW PROPOSING. IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND IT AIMS AT REDUCTIONS IN THE OVERALL SOVIET LRINF THREAT. THE DANISH PROPOSAL INSTEAD CONSTITUTES A FREEZE AT UNEQUAL LEVELS.

-- MOREOVER, THE DANISH PROPOSAL WOULD BLOCK THE UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF 1,000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW MBFR INITIATIVE. THIS WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM ON ARMS CONTROL AND DETENTE BY ELIMINATING TWO KEY ELEMENTS, AS WELL AS BY WEAKENING THE POLITICAL STRENGTH AND SOLIDARITY THAT IS A KEY TO ITS SUCCESS.

-- IN SUM, WE BELIEVE THAT THE DANISH INITIATIVE CAN ONLY TROUBLE THE SOLID CONSENSUS NOW BUILDING IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE TNF PROGRAM AND A FIRM DECISION IN DECEMBER. THIS WOULD HAVE GRAVE AND LASTING CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ALLIANCE'S COHESION AND SECURITY AND FOR THE CAUSE OF DETENTE AND ARMS CONTROL.

DECISION WILL HEREAFTER HAVE TO BE TAKEN BASED ON THE PRESENT NATO PROPOSAL. IN THIS SITUATION WE WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE REAL ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. END TEXT.