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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: MATLOCK, JACK: Files
OA/Box: ~~OA-90888~~ Box 21
File Folder: Chernenko's Death – Misc 3/10/85

Archivist: jas/jas
FOIA ID: F95-074, Pfeiffer
Date: 10/16/00

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. cable	110511Z Mar 85, 3p D 1/22/03 F95-074/3 #55	3/11/85	P1/B1 /B3
2. report	re: Chernenko's funeral PART. - #56	3/11/85	P1/B1 /B3
3. cable	111253Z Mar 85, 2p	3/11/85	P1/B1
4. cable	111401Z Mar 85, 3p	3/11/85	P1/B1
5. cable	111024Z Mar 85, 3p	3/11/85	P1/B1
6. cable	111027Z Mar 85, 3p	3/11/85	P1/B1
7. report	FBIS 051, 1p partial PART. 1/22/03 F95-074/3 #61	3/11/85	B3
8. report	FBIS 054, 1p partial PART. - #62	3/11/85	B3
9. memo	Matlock to McFarlane, re: Chernenko death, 2p PARTIAL 3/1/02 F95-074/3 #63	3/8/00	P1/B1
10. report	re: Chernenko, 1p PART. 1/22/03 #64	3/8/85	P1/B1 /B3
11. cable	081035Z Mar 85, 1p D 7/3/01 NLSP95-074/3 #65	3/8/85	P1/B1
12. talking points	meeting with new General Secretary USSR, 3p	3/11/85	P1/B1

RESTRICTIONS

P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].

P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
B-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

PENDING REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH E.O. 13233

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name MATLOCK, JACK: FILES

Withdrawer

LOJ 5/10/2007

File Folder CHERNENKO'S DEATH-MISC 3/10/85

FOIA

F95-074/3

Box Number 21

ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date
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9	MEMO	MATLOCK TO MCFARLANE, RE CHERNENKO DEATH	2 3/8/1985
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MVH 3/17/08

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

MATLOCK

PAGE 01 OF 02
SIT110

MOSCOW 2992
AN009958

DTG: 111701Z MAR 85 PSN: 039830
TOR: 070/1732Z

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STU1032
DE RUEHMO #2992 0701702
O 111701Z MAR 85 ZFF4
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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 1476
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JAS
10/17/00

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 02992

E. O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: UR, US, ODIP
SUBJECT: CHERNENKO FUNERAL DELEGATIONS - INFORMATION
- AS OF 1900 MOSCOW TIME
-

1. WE HAVE GLEANED INITIAL INFORMATION ON THE COMPOSITION OF SOME OF THE MAJOR FOREIGN DELEGATIONS TO CHERNENKO'S FUNERAL FROM FOREIGN EMBASSIES HERE IN MOSCOW. THE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AS OF 1900 MOSCOW TIME MARCH 11.

- BELGIUM -- PROBABLY VICE PRIME MINISTER JEAN GOL;

- DENMARK -- PROBABLY PRINCE HENRIK AND PRIME MINISTER SCHLUETER;

- FRANCE -- EITHER PRESIDENT MITTERAND OR PRIME MINISTER FABIUS PLUS FOREIGN MINISTER DUMAS (WHO IS ALREADY HERE);

- FRG -- CHANCELLOR KOHL AND POSSIBLY GENSCHER ;

- GREAT BRITIAN -- FCO HAS REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDED THAT PRIME MINISTER THATCHER ATTEND;

- INDIA -- PRIME MINISTER RAJIV GANDHI (DEFINITE);

- IRELAND -- PROBABLY PRESIDENT HILLERY;

- NETHERLANDS -- FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DEN BROEK.

2. THE SHORT TIME PERIOD BETWEEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHERNENKO'S DEATH AND THE FUNERAL HAS CAUSED GOVERNMENTS TO SCRAMBLE TO CHOOSE THEIR DELEGATIONS. MOST EMBASSIES HERE HAVE HAD LITTLE WORD, BUT EXPECT THEIR DELEGATIONS TO BE SIMILAR TO THOSE SENT TO ANDROPOV'S FUNERAL LAST YEAR. WE WILL PROVIDE UPDATES AS THE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. HARTMAN
BT

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

PAGE 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 2946

DTG: 111110Z MAR 85 PSN: 039026

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 3042
USDEL NST GENEVA 0003

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MOSCOW 02946

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PGOV, UR

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHERNENKO DEATH

1. ~~C~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. CHERNENKO'S DEATH "AFTER A SERIOUS ILLNESS" WAS
ANNOUNCED AT 1400 MOSCOW TIME ON MOSCOW RADIO AND
TELEVISION. TIME OF DEATH WAS GIVEN AS 1920 ON MARCH
10. HARTMAN

BT

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By JAS NARA, Date 10/17/00

DECLASSIFIED
Department of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
By JAS NARA, Date 10/17/00

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PAGE 01
SIT047

NAIROBI 8288
AN009898

DTG: 111518Z MAR 85 PSN: 039522
TOR: 070/1526Z

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OP IMMED
STU0646
DE RUEHNR #8288 0701518
O 111518Z MAR 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8404

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 0673

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 08288

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, PREL, US, UR, KE
SUBJECT: COMPOSITION OF FUNERAL DELEGATIONS FOR
- CHERNENKO FUNERAL

REF: STATE 072743

1. GOK WILL BE REPRESENTED AT CHERNENKO FUNERAL BY
FOREIGN MINISTER ELIJAH W. MWANGALE, WHO IS CURRENTLY
ATTENDING A MEETING IN GENEVA.

2. MFA'S OFFICE OF PROTOCOL HAS ASKED FOR THE
COMPOSITION OF THE U.S. DELEGATION. PLEASE ADVISE.
THOMAS
BT

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FOIA(b)(1)

FOIA(b)(3)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

#1/11 March 1985

SPOT COMMENTARY: Gorbachev Named Funeral Commission Chairman

TASS announced this morning that Party Secretary Gorbachev has been named to head the commission for General Secretary Chernenko's funeral, scheduled for Wednesday. The announcement came less than an hour after the Soviet media officially announced Chernenko's death. According to Yugoslav media, the Central Committee is now meeting to name a successor, [REDACTED]

Comment: The naming of Gorbachev to chair the funeral commission is a strong indication that he will succeed Chernenko as General Secretary. Both Andropov and Chernenko chaired the funeral commissions of their predecessors. Gorbachev was named to head the commission with unusual swiftness. Six and a half hours elapsed between the official announcement of Andropov's death and the naming of his funeral commission. Andropov was named to head Brezhnev's funeral commission four and a half hours after the death announcement. [REDACTED]

The rapid pace of events so far suggests that a successor will be named promptly, possibly within the day, but at least by tomorrow. Both Andropov and Chernenko were named to the top post prior to the funeral. [REDACTED]

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NLS F95-07413 #56
CIS, NARA, Date 1/22/03

By

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AN009890

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TOR: 070/1457Z

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O 111452Z MAR 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1947

INFO USMISSION USNATO 4908
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2582

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ OSLO 01381

E. O. 12356: DECL: 3/11/86
TAGS: PREL, UR, NO

SUBJ: CHERNENKO FUNERAL: NORWEGIAN ATTENDANCE

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT

2. MFA INFORMS US THAT GON IS PLANNING TO BE REPRESENTED
AT CHERNENKO'S FUNERAL BY A DELEGATION COMPOSED OF:

CROWN PRINCE HARALD, PRIME MINISTER KAARE WILLOCH
AND NILS MORTON UDGAARD, STATE SECRETARY IN THE PRIME
MINISTER'S OFFICE. THIS DELEGATION FOLLOWS THE PATTERN
OF THOSE SENT TO BREZHNEV'S AND ANDROPOV'S FUNERALS.
STUART
BT

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997

By JAS NARA, Date 10/17/00

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Presidential Condolence Message to
Acting Head of State

Please accept my condolences on the death of the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko.

At this solemn time, I wish to reiterate the strong desire of the American people for world peace. Although the problems which divide our countries are many and complex, we can and must resolve our differences through dialogue and negotiation. Our two delegations are sitting down in Geneva to begin negotiation on how to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons. We must seize the opportunities for peace. We need to find ways to reduce the threat and use of force in solving international disputes. We must also establish a working relationship that builds greater trust and cooperation between us. I hope that the Soviet leadership will join with me with renewed dedication to create a firm and durable basis for better relations between our two countries.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

His Excellency
TO: Vasily Vasilyevich Kuznetsov
First Deputy Chairman,
Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of
The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Moscow, USSR

Secretary's Message to Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko

Please accept my condolences on the death of ~~General~~ *Chairman* ~~Secretary~~ Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko. I am sure his loss will be felt deeply by you and all of the Soviet leadership.

As we face the many, complex issues before our two countries, I wish to reaffirm the American desire for peaceful and cooperative relations between us. We need to find ways to reduce the vast stockpiles of armaments in the world. We are dedicated to sustained efforts to reduce the threat and use of force in solving international disputes and to establish working relationships with the Soviet Union that contribute to greater cooperation and understanding. Our negotiations in Geneva offer the best possible hope for progress toward our ultimate goal of eliminating the threat of nuclear war and creating a safer world. Putting our relations on a more stable and constructive basis for the long term will continue to be a matter of the highest importance to my government, and I look forward to working with you toward this objective.

Sincerely,

George P. Shultz

WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT

The President has sent a message of condolence to Acting Head of State, Vasiliy Vasil'yevich Kuznetsov, on the death of Chairman and General Secretary Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko. In his message, the President reaffirmed his commitment to peace and to working for a cooperative relationship with the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Soviet government. The President called upon the Soviet leadership to seize the opportunity offered by the negotiations about to begin in Geneva to make progress toward our shared goal of eliminating nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

In our relations with the Soviet Union, the United States has three basic goals: to reduce significantly the unacceptably high numbers of weapons which now exist; to eliminate the use and the threat of force in international relations; and to develop greater trust and confidence in our relations with the Soviet Union overall. Our nations share an interest in the development of stable and constructive relations for the long term.

We believe that the problems which exist in U.S.-Soviet relations can be resolved and that progress is possible in the near term. We cannot achieve progress single-handedly, but we will do our part to bring it about. The United States hopes to work with the Soviet leadership to build on common interests in order to help create a better and safer world.

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ

The President has sent a message of condolence to the Soviet leadership on the death of General Secretary Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, and I have sent a similar message to Foreign Minister Gromyko.

The problems which engage our two countries are many and complex. They will not be quickly or easily resolved. But they must be resolved peacefully, and progress is possible in many areas.

Our negotiators in Geneva are about to tackle the critical issues of reducing nuclear weapons and advancing toward the ultimate goal of eliminating them from the face of the earth. We want to work with the Soviet Union to avoid miscalculation and help reduce the threat or use of force as a solution to tensions in troubled areas of the world. We want to work with the Soviet Union to resolve problems in our bilateral relationship to mutual benefit, and build greater trust and confidence in the way we deal with each other.

Our goal is a more stable and constructive relationship between our countries for the long term, and our policy toward the USSR will be patient, consistent and realistic. Opportunities for genuine peace and for progress in US-Soviet relations exist, and we will do our part to bring that about. We would like to count on Soviet willingness to work with us to that end.

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Chernenko Death and Geneva Talks

- ° We note the passing of Chairman Chernenko and I am sending condolences to the Soviet leadership.
- ° We will deal with the new Soviet leader with an open mind and will continue to make every effort to improve our relations and lower the levels of nuclear arms.
- ° I am pleased that the negotiations in Geneva will open as scheduled.

We're ready

- ° Lots of hard preparation has been done.
- ° We have concrete, constructive proposals; will be interested in Soviet ideas; will be flexible; hope Soviets are equally prepared for serious give and take.
- ° Will be a long and hard process -- patience, strength, and Allied unity are required.
- ° We are realistic about differences between ourselves and the Soviets. While pursuing arms control, we will also press for progress in regional, bilateral and human rights issues.
- ° I cannot go into details of our negotiating positions or hypothetical tradeoffs, as we want to respect the confidentiality of the negotiating process.

The New Talks

- ° Short-term: priority is to reduce US and Soviet offensive nuclear forces -- systems which exist now and which threaten entire populations.
- ° Medium-term: if research bears out, discuss how US and USSR can move away from relying solely on threat of nuclear retaliation toward greater reliance on defenses which threaten no one (the morally preferable approach).
- ° Long-term: goal is the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.
- ° As we negotiate for nuclear arms reduction, we need to bear in mind the necessity of remaining firm in our resolve to maintain an adequate deterrence to war. Our negotiating flexibility must be coupled with firmness and resolve if it is to be effective in producing the outcome we all desire -- radical reductions in nuclear weapons as a step toward the ultimate goal in eliminating them.

R058U 11111)LCZCWDYDRYR

BC-ARMS***URGENT

ARMS TALKS TO START AS PLANNED DESPITE CHERNENKO DEATH

GENEVA, MARCH 11, REUTER - U.S.-SOVIET ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WILL OPEN IN GENEVA TOMORROW AS SCHEDULED DESPITE THE DEATH OF SOVIET PRESIDENT KONSTANTIN CHERNENKO, A U.S. SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE DELEGATION SPOKESMAN, WHO MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT SHORTLY AFTER CHERNENKO'S DEATH WAS CONFIRMED IN MOSCOW, SAID OFFICIALS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS MADE THE DECISION TO GO AHEAD AT A MEETING IN GENEVA THIS MORNING.

REUTER 0700

R055U 11111)LCZCWDWYD

BC-CHERNENKO-GORBACHEV ***URGENT

GORBACHEV NAMED TO HEAD CHERNENKO FUNERAL COMMISSION

MOSCOW, MARCH 11, REUTER - MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, 54, WAS NAMED TODAY AS HEAD OF THE COMMISSION ORGANIZING THE FUNERAL OF LATE SOVIET PRESIDENT KONSTANTIN CHERNENKO, THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY TASS SAID.

THIS WAS INTERPRETED BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS AS EFFECTIVELY CONFIRMING HIS POSITION AS HEIR-APPARENT.

CHERNENKO HEADED THE COMMISSION ORGANIZING THE FUNERAL OF HIS PREDECESSOR YURI ANDROPOV.

REUTER 0649

Matlock

FBIS 051

BULLETIN

TANJUG: CPSU CC PLENUM TO BE HELD THIS AFTERNOON

AU111146 BELGRADE TANJUG DOMESTIC SERVICE IN SERBO-CROATIAN 1135 GMT
11 MAR 85

(TEXT) MOSCOW, 11 MARCH (TANJUG) -- IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT AN
EXTRAORDINARY PLENUM OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD THIS
AFTERNOON WHICH IS TO BE DEVOTED TO THE DEATH OF KONSTANTIN
CHERNENKO, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPSU AND PRESIDENT OF THE USSR
SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PLENUM WILL ELECT A NEW GENERAL
SECRETARY OF THE SOVIET PARTY.

11 MAR 1158Z

FOIA(b)(3)

DECLASSIFIED IN PART /RE/ (EASE)
NLS F95-074/3 #61
By CL, NARA, Date 1/22/03

FBIS 054

BULLETIN

TASS: CHERNENKO'S FUNERAL SET FOR 13 MARCH

LD111155 MOSCOW TASS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 1150 GMT 11 MAR
85

("FROM THE COMMISSION ON ORGANIZING THE FUNERAL OF KONSTANTIN
USTINOVICH CHERNENKO" -- TASS HEADLINE)

(TEXT) MOSCOW, 11 MAR (TASS) -- THE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THAT
KONSTANTIN USTINOVICH CHERNENKO'S FUNERAL WILL TAKE PLACE ON
WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH AT 1300 AT RED SQUARE.

11 MAR 1209Z [REDACTED] FOIA(b)(3)

DECLASSIFIED IN PART / RE/OPENED
NLS 195-07413 #12
By CW, NARA, Date: 1/27/03

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SYSTEM II
90262

Matlock
JM-C
JFMOS

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

March 8, 1985

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM:

JACK MATLOCK

SUBJECT:

Report of Chernenko Death

You will have seen the report [REDACTED] indicating that, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Chernenko had died but the news was being withheld until after the holiday (International Women's Day). (The motivation cited is plausible, since this is a big holiday in the Soviet Union and is considered a joyful one.)

There is, however, no other indication that Chernenko has died, except for an alert originating with BBC, which could have been asked to monitor broadcasts by the UK government on the basis of the same report that we have. If the Soviets have decided to withhold the information for a day, however, one would not expect to see indications in the media, and as of noon today there have been no signs of unusual programming. More significant perhaps is the report that the Shcherbitsky delegation here has done nothing to alter their travel plans. (It is virtually inconceivable that Shcherbitsky would not be notified if Chernenko had in fact died.)

Fritz Ermarth, the Agency's NIO for the Soviet Union, believes that there is no more than a 50/50 chance that the report of Chernenko's death is correct, and I concur.

However that may be, this report serves as a reminder that we may very well be faced with Chernenko's death without advance notice. Therefore, the question of whether or not the President attends the funeral will arise once again. While we cannot anticipate all the particulars which may be relevant at the time the event occurs, it would probably be prudent to discuss the matter with the President.

It seems to me that arguments for and against the President's attendance are fairly evenly balanced, and I would not be inclined to come down hard on either side. On the positive side one can say that our relations started to be more civil under

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

Declassify on: OADR

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NLS F95-074/3 #63
By C-1, NARA, Date 3/7/02

FOIA(b) (1)

Chernenko than under his predecessors, and also that without a KGB background Chernenko is marginally more savory than Andropov was. This makes it somewhat easier for the President to be seen honoring him. The President's attendance at the funeral would also disarm those critics who accuse him of not doing enough to communicate with the Soviet leaders.

On the other hand, there are no strong substantive reasons for him to go. The precedent has already been established for the Vice President to do this duty, and there will certainly be no offense if he goes once again. Any conversation the President would have with a successor would necessarily be short, and there are arguments for waiting until a more substantive summit can be arranged.

If the President is interested in considering attendance at the funeral, we should give some thought to how the trip and announcement should be handled in order to maximize the advantages. Obviously, we should do so in the most discreet fashion.

Recommendation:

That you encourage the President to consider what his position should be in regard to attending Chernenko's funeral, and if he is inclined to go this time to let you know so some very discreet contingency planning can be done.

Approve

pm

Disapprove

Attachment:

Tab I -

[REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET~~

FOIA(b) (1)

FOIA(b) (3)

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NLS

FGS-07413 #14

By

CLS

NARA, Date

1/22/03

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE**

1 - 8 March 1985

SPOT COMMENTARY: USSR--Reports That Chernenko Has Died

Around 0700 Washington time, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had been told by "an official source" Chernenko had died. We have no further details from that source.

[REDACTED]

Soviet Politburo members minus Chernenko and Romanov, appeared at a meeting yesterday in the Bolshoy Theater in honor of the holiday. It is not unusual for ceremonies to be held on a day other than the actual holiday. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Moscow media are following scheduled programming, with features devoted to the holiday. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Soviets in the Shcherbitskiy delegation here in Washington have displayed no unusual activity thus far. [REDACTED]

Comment: In the last two cases, the Soviets announced the death of the Soviet leader in about 24 hours. It is possible Chernenko might be dead and the Politburo is withholding the news. If Chernenko really is dead, we believe the Politburo will not withhold the news much longer. With each hour that passes without information, the story becomes more unlikely to be true.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

61774)

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CHERNENKO FUNERAL

Should President attend?

PROS

- Atmosphere of relations has improved somewhat.
- Chernenko has no KGB background.
- Would demonstrate President's desire to deepen contacts and solve problems.
- Would be welcomed in Europe.
- Gorbachev seems likely to be named Gen.Sec. and it would be useful to meet him early on.
- Attendance would undercut Soviet propaganda that President is hostile to Russians as people.
- At least some important allied leaders are likely to be there; it now appears 95% certain that Thatcher will go and it is most likely Kohl will go. Mitterand has not yet decided -- would probably go if President does.

CONS

- No compelling reason to do things differently this time.
- In setting funeral so early (Wednesday), Soviets may intend to discourage high-level attendance.
- Logistics will be difficult; departure required tonight or early tomorrow.
- Meeting with Gorbachev would necessarily be very short.
- Some in U.S. would criticize as indicating overeagerness to reach agreements.

* * * * *

NOTE

If President is inclined to go, we should not be too hasty in making a public announcement. We should take time to check discreetly with Soviets to make sure his attendance would be welcomed. Also, Allied leaders would doubtless welcome a "heads up."

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AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 7356
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10/17/80

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E. O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: UR US ODIP

SUBJECT: ~~CHERNENKO FUNERAL DELEGATIONS - INFORMATION~~
~~AS OF 1900 MOSCOW TIME~~

1. WE HAVE GLEANED INITIAL INFORMATION ON THE COMPOSITION OF SOME OF THE MAJOR FOREIGN DELEGATIONS TO CHERNENKO'S FUNERAL FROM FOREIGN EMBASSIES HERE IN MOSCOW. THE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AS OF 1900 MOSCOW TIME MARCH 11.

BELGIUM -- PROBABLY VICE PRIME MINISTER JEAN GOL;

DENMARK -- PROBABLY PRINCE HENRIK AND PRIME MINISTER SCHLUETER;

FRANCE -- EITHER PRESIDENT MITTERAND OR PRIME MINISTER FABIUS PLUS FOREIGN MINISTER DUMAS (WHO IS ALREADY HERE);

FRG -- CHANCELLOR KOHL AND POSSIBLY GENSCHER ;

GREAT BRITAIN -- FCO HAS REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDED THAT PRIME MINISTER THATCHER ATTEND;

INDIA -- PRIME MINISTER RAJIV GANDHI (DEFINITE);

IRELAND -- PROBABLY PRESIDENT HILLERY;

NETHERLANDS -- FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DEN BROEK.

2. THE SHORT TIME PERIOD BETWEEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHERNENKO'S DEATH AND THE FUNERAL HAS CAUSED GOVERNMENTS TO SCRAMBLE TO CHOOSE THEIR DELEGATIONS. MOST EMBASSIES HERE HAVE HAD LITTLE WORD, BUT EXPECT THEIR DELEGATIONS TO BE SIMILAR TO THOSE SENT TO ANDROPOV'S FUNERAL LAST YEAR. WE WILL PROVIDE UPDATES AS THE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. HARTMAN
BT