

P.A. CHRONO

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SERVICE DE PRESSE

PRESS SERVICE

OTAN/NATO, 1110 Bruxelles ■ Telephones: 241 00 40 - 241 44 00 - 241 44 90 TELEX: 23-867

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PRESS STATEMENT BY SCG CHAIRMAN H. ALLEN HOLMES

The NATO Special Consultative Group (SCG) met today under the chairmanship of Ambassador Allen Holmes to discuss the status of the INF negotiations. Ambassador Maynard Glitman, U.S. negotiator for INF, briefed the SCG on developments in the current round, which began September 18th in Geneva.

The SCG reviewed the status of the INF negotiations in the light of the recent meeting between President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev and fully endorsed the U.S. proposals relative to INF presented at Reykjavik. The SCG stressed that the opportunity for decisive progress had emerged and underlined the importance of energetically pursuing these proposals. The Group emphasized that negotiations on INF should lead to an agreement which is not linked to progress in other areas.

The SCG endorsed the continuing U.S. commitment to build on common ground and accelerate progress toward an INF agreement. The Group also expressed the hope that Soviet INF negotiators will proceed with substantive and detailed negotiations in the aftermath of the meeting in Reykjavik, looking toward the early conclusion and implementation of a separate INF agreement.

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