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BEING BETWEEN TWO SOVEREIGN STATES AND THE BUSINESS ONLY OF THOSE TWO STATES, NOT SUBJECT TO INTERFERENCE FROM THIRD STATES. IN EXPRESSING SURPRISE 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 THAT WAS MALITSEV'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 IF THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT OF U.S. FORCES INTO AREAS WHERE THEY HAD NEVER BEEN BEFORE, MALITSEV MIGHT WELL BE ASKING ME QUESTIONS. MALITSEV SAID THAT WAS NOT THE SUBJECT OF OUR PRESENT CONVERSATION AND THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT HE HAD ALREADY SAID.

6. MENTIONING THAT I HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE U.S., I THEN SPOKE BRIEFLY OF THE MOOD OF THE COUNTRY AS I PERCEIVED 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 OVER THE TEHRAN HOSTAGE 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 OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. MALITSEV OFFERED NO ENCOURAGEMENT. HE SAID

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THAT, WHILE THE SOVIET UNION CONSISTENTLY ADVOCATED AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS AND ALSO 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 AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN IS IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A ROUTINE CHECK-UP AND WILL PROBABLY BE BACK IN WASHINGTON IN A WEEK OR TEN DAYS. KORNIYENKU, HE SAID, IS ON VACATION AND NOT EXPECTED BACK IN THE MINISTRY UNTIL JANUARY 10.  
WATSON

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