



OCPAS/CIG

CY# 285

(b)(3)

# National Intelligence Daily

Saturday  
12 November 1983

~~Top Secret~~

OCPAS NID 83-285 IX

12 November 1983

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**USSR: Statement on Arms Control Talks**

*The announcement by the Soviets yesterday that they will break off INF talks if the West German Bundestag approves the deployment of new US missiles is the first public declaration by Moscow that it views the debate in Bonn as decisive to the future of the negotiations.*

[redacted]

A statement issued by the Soviet Embassy in Bonn cautioned that the fate of the INF talks depends on the outcome of the Bundestag debate on 21 and 22 November. The statement alluded to General Secretary Andropov's warning late last month that arrival of new US missiles in Western Europe would make continuation of negotiations in Geneva impossible. On Wednesday, a Soviet delegate to the INF talks—speaking “for the sake of argument”—had said that any resumption of arms control talks would be on a different basis, with a “global” approach. [redacted]

A Soviet delegate to the MBFR negotiations in Vienna, meanwhile, said at the plenary meeting on Thursday that INF deployment will have a negative effect on the MBFR talks as well. The US delegation reports that his language was more threatening than that used in a similar statement by the East on 13 October. According to an Eastern delegate, a high-level Warsaw Pact meeting later this month will consider the future of MBFR in the wake of INF deployments. [redacted]

**Comment:** The specific reference in the Soviet Embassy statement to the INF talks suggests that the USSR has not yet decided also to walk out on other negotiations, such as START. The Soviet official in Geneva who hinted that the talks might resume had previously been the most pessimistic member of his delegation concerning the effect of INF deployments. His remark may signal that Moscow is considering a somewhat early resumption of INF negotiations in a different forum, perhaps by including them in START. [redacted]

Despite the warning in Vienna, the Soviets are less likely to break off MBFR talks. [redacted]