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**ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
FOR
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY POLICY
Ashton B. Carter**

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
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~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

TO: SECDEF

FROM: Ash *Ash C.*

SUBJECT: Phone Calls re Engels

Chip Blacker: Issue "is in the hands of schedulers in the West Wing." He has kibbitzing rights but has not taken a position. If and when asked, however, he will say that he has "policy problems" with Engels: it will play well for us, but not for the Russians. I explained that 1. we can take the edge off by filming at Davis-Monthan; 2. Mamedov has told us the Russians will do it; 3. POTUS has gone out on a limb to give Yeltsin good images, they should do same for us; 4. message is not that Russians are being disarmed, but that – amidst our many disagreements – both of us are continuing to cooperate in dismantlement. Chip acknowledged these arguments, but it seems clear he will continue to take this view when asked by the "schedulers."

Draft schedule went to POTUS Friday. Issue put up front in memo was Engels. Chip says pros and cons were "carefully balanced." Mtg of schedulers today at 1430; might have a decision by then.

Jim Collins: Still in favor of Engels. Doesn't know where Christopher or Talbott stand. Mamedov told him this morning Russia is willing to host POTUS at Engels. He will sniff around STATE and keep me posted. Says Bill Miller is pushing Chernobyl (which Kuchma has pledged to close by year 2000); Collins says, "What's POTUS supposed to wear?"

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Tom Donilon: Continues to believe nothing competes with Engels. Thinks "privatization event" (Johnson Wax) is a loser. Thinks issue has not yet come before Christopher. Volunteered to talk to Christopher and get back to me. Says fact that SECDEF has gone to Engels not important: "It's not been done until POTUS does it." Asked me about Chechnya connection: gave him "facts" (sic) as we know them; he seemed unconcerned about this angle.

Embassy Moscow: Pickering at reception; got to Rubus. Reports that Pickering's priorities are: 1. Chernobyl reactor; 2. monastery/battle site northwest of Moscow; 3. Engels. Rubus says Pickering is not opposed to Engels but thinks SECDEF has already "done it."

Will keep you posted, esp. when Donilon gets back to me with word from Christopher.

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