

FM MOSCOW  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 368  
OF 150818Z FEBRUARY 91  
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*Iceland / USSR*

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MOSCOW TELNO 352: RECALL OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO ICELAND

SUMMARY

1. MFA SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES KRASAVIN'S RECALL TO THE SOVIET UNION. GIVES DETAILS OF MFA PROTEST TO ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR.

DETAIL

2. ON 14 FEBRUARY, MFA PRESS SPOKESMAN FORMALLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO ICELAND, KRASAVIN, HAD BEEN RECALLED TO MOSCOW FOR CONSULTATIONS UNTIL RELEVANT EXPLANATIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM ICELAND ABOUT THE ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT'S DECISION TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LITHUANIA.

3. THE SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT THE ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN SUMMONED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KVITSINSKY ON 13 FEBRUARY. HE HAD BEEN HANDED A NOTE WHICH STATED THAT THE ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT'S DECISION WAS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE BECAUSE LITHUANIA REMAINED A REPUBLIC IN THE SOVIET UNION. TO IGNORE THIS WOULD BE AN ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOVIET UNION. ANY ACTION TAKEN BY THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE PARLIAMENT'S DECISION WOULD CONTRAVENE ICELAND'S UN AND CSCE COMMITMENTS, WHICH CALLED FOR RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MEMBER STATES. THE NOTE ALSO DESCRIBED THE PARLIAMENT'S DECISION AS AN ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH THE SOVIET UNION'S INTERNAL CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS, UNDER WHICH THE STATUS OF REPUBLICS IN THE RENEWED SOVIET FEDERATION WAS BEING CONSIDERED.

BRAITHWAITE

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20 FEB 1991