

*Soviet Union
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SECRET

HL *4*

MR. GOODALL

Soviet General Staff Command Exercise

Thank you for your minute of 14 July.
The Prime Minister is content with the arrangements you suggested for the briefing on 21 July.

JOHN COLES

15 July 1982

Ref: B06563

Prime Minister

Content will be arrangements:

A.S.C. $\frac{14}{7}$ PRIME MINISTER

c Sir Robert Armstrong

Ym mb

Soviet General Staff Command Exercise

You will recall that when you saw JIC(82) WSI 25(Supplement) of 24th June about the recent Soviet General Staff Command exercise, you commented that you would be grateful in due course for an oral assessment of the implications of the Soviet exercise for NATO. Arrangements have now been made for this briefing to take place at No. 10 on Wednesday, 21st July at 3.15 pm. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Defence Secretary would both like to be present.

2. It is proposed that the briefing should be introduced by the Chief of the Defence Staff. The Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Intelligence), Lieut. General Sir James Glover, would then give a presentation on the place of this exercise in overall Soviet training arrangements and other similar exercises, and their capability actually to put such operations into effect and their current tactical nuclear doctrine. He would be followed by the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Policy), Air Vice Marshal Gilbert, who would cover NATO capabilities to counter such Soviet operations, and in particular the development of the capabilities of the Allies outside the NATO area. Mr Patrick Wright, Chairman of the JIC, and Mr Weston, Head of Defence Department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, would be available to cover any aspects of specific concern to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The others present would be either Sir Frank Cooper or Mr Hastie-Smith (Deputy Under Secretary (Policy and Programmes)) from the Ministry of Defence; Sir Robert Armstrong and I; and Mr O'Neill, Head of the Assessments Staff.
3. I should be grateful to know whether you are content with these arrangements.

A.D.S. Goodall

14th July 1982

A D S GOODALL



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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

S/F 1
The Prime Minister has seen JIC(82)(WSI)25 (Supplement) of 24 June about the recent Soviet General Staff Command exercise. She has commented that, when our immediate Falklands problems are over, she would be grateful for an oral assessment of the implications for NATO of the Soviet exercise. Perhaps we could make arrangements for this in about mid-July.

A. J. COLES

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30 June 1982