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DESKBY 041515Z DECEMBER
FROM MOSCOW 041400Z DECEMBER
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1382 OF 4 DECEMBER

MY TELNO 1381 : GORBACHEV'S VISIT.

1. FOR MY CALL THIS AFTERNOON ,4 DECEMBER, GORBACHEV WAS ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY A CENTRAL COMMITTEE AIDE AND USPENSKY OF THE MFA WHO WILL GO WITH HIM TO LONDON AS INTERPRETER.

IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT.

2. I SAID THAT GORBACHEV'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION TO LEAD THE SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION HAD BEEN WELCOMED IN LONDON AS AN EVENT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN ANGLO-SOVIET RELATIONS. YOU, THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER MINISTERS HOPED IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. GORBACHEV REPLIED THAT HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE INVITATION. THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP SHARED THE HOPE THAT THE VISIT SHOULD MARK A NEW STEP IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION OF A WIDE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

TRADE.

3. I POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ECONOMIC COMPONENT IN GORBACHEV'S PROGRAMME. WE WISHED TO SEE A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN ANGLO-SOVIET TRADE. THE PROGRAMME SHOULD ENABLE BOTH SIDES TO DRAW MAXIMUM BENEFITS FROM MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PARLIAMENT, THE GOVERNMENT AND VARIOUS BRANCHES OF BRITISH PUBLIC LIFE, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF BRITISH BUSINESS. GORBACHEV COMMENTED THAT HE WAS VERY READY TO DISCUSS TRADE AS WELL AS POLITICAL PROBLEMS. AS HE WOULD SAY AGAIN IN LONDON, ANGLO-SOVIET TRADE WAS AT A VERY LOW LEVEL AND THERE WERE POSSIBILITIES FOR IT TO RISE TO NEW LEVELS.

PROGRAMME AND SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

4. INVITED TO COMMENT ON THE PROGRAMME, GORBACHEV REPLIED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE HAD ALREADY TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT AND THAT HE CONSIDERED THE PROGRAMME AGREED. IT WAS A GOOD ONE : IT WAS VERY TIGHT, BUT AS THERE HAD BEEN NO SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION IN BRITAIN FOR OVER 10 YEARS, THERE WAS A LOT OF GROUND TO COVER.

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5. ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY PARTICULAR SUBJECTS HE WOULD WISH TO RAISE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OR MINISTERS, GORBACHEV SAID THAT THE PROGRAMME PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS. HE WANTED FRANK POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, WITH NO DIPLOMATIC FORMALITIES, ON THE CURRENT WORLD SITUATION. HE MIGHT SEE THE REASONS FOR CURRENT INTERNATIONAL TENSION DIFFERENTLY FROM THE BRITISH, BUT THE PRIME TASK WAS TO FIND "A KEY TO THE MAJOR PROBLEMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION". THIS ISSUE TOOK FIRST PLACE AND WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, WITH YOU AND WITH PARLIAMENT. HE HOPED THERE WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSION WITH PARLIAMENT ON HOW PARLIAMENT WORKED AND OF INTERNAL POLICIES IN BOTH BRITAIN AND THE SOVIET UNION. HE WOULD ALSO WISH TO DISCUSS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOU THE NEW INITIATIVES LEADING TO TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION. A DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON NEW TALKS AFTER "A COMPLICATED PERIOD". POLITICAL WILL WAS NEEDED IF THEY WERE TO PRODUCE REAL RESULTS. THE SOVIET UNION WANTED SERIOUS TALKS. GORBACHEV WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT VALUED THE BRITISH ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND HE HOPED THAT BRITAIN AND THE SOVIET UNION COULD WORK TOGETHER TO FIND THE KEY TO THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. THERE WOULD ALSO BE A PLACE FOR DISCUSSION OF EUROPE AND BILATERAL AFFAIRS. IN CONFIRMING THAT THE EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF YOUR AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S MINDS I REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT SHULTZ WOULD BE IN LONDON JUST BEFORE THE VISIT. GORBACHEV REFLECTED THAT THE WORLD SITUATION WORRIED EVERYBODY HOWEVER ONE SAW THE CAUSES. WE HAD DIFFERING VIEWS, BUT THESE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED. IN GENERAL, A WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS COULD BE COVERED.

6. WHEN THE DISCUSSION TURNED TO THE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, I REFERRED TO HER INTEREST IN HOW SOCIETY COULD ADAPT TO A WORLD OF RAPIDLY CHANGING TECHNOLOGY. GORBACHEV SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM THE PRIME MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS: "EXTERNAL POLICY IS A CONTINUATION OF INTERNAL POLICY". THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD NO DOUBT BE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE THE SOVIET SIDE PLACED ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS.

MRS GORBACHOVA.

7. ON MRS GORBACHOVA'S PROGRAMME, GORBACHEV SAID THAT ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE SENT VIA THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN LONDON.

PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCH.

8. I PASSED ON TO GORBACHEV THE POINTS ON ATTENDANCE AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCH AND YOUR MEETING ON 17 DECEMBER (PARA 3(A) AND (B) OF YOUR TELNO 382 TO DUBLIN). HE ACCEPTED WITH THANKS.

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SECURITY

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

9. IN RESPONSE TO THE POINTS ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS (YOUR PARA 3(C) - (H)), GORBACHEV SAID THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST HE HAD HEARD OF THIS PROBLEM. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT A GROUP FROM THE SOVIET SECURITY SERVICES LED BY GENERAL ROGOV WOULD TRAVEL IN ADVANCE TO DISCUSS ARRANGMENTS WITH THE BRITISH SECURITY SERVICES. HE WOULD RELY ON THE ARRANGMENTS THAT THEY AND HIS BRITISH HOSTS WOULD MAKE. HE REMARKED SUBSEQUENTLY OF THE SECURITY SERVICES THAT " THEY DO THEIR BUSINESS AND WE DO OURS". HE SEEMED ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH THE EXPLANATION I GAVE OF OUR POSITION.

GENERAL.

10. GORBACHEV ALSO SPOKE OF HIS INTEREST IN ENGLISH HISTORY AND THE ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM, WHICH HE HAD STUDIED. HE SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING SOMETHING OF CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN , AND MIGHT GET IMPRESSIONS OR IDEAS WHICH COULD LEAD TO FURTHER EXCHANGES IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITAIN TO TRAVEL TO THE SOVIET UNION AND FOR SOVIET CITIZENS TO SEE THE UK.

POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS.

11. FINALLY, GORBACHEV OFFERED ONE QUESTION WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD POSE TO YOU , NAMELY YOUR OPINION ON THE SCOPE AND APPLICATION OF THE 1975 PROTOCOL ON CONSULTATIONS . WOULD WE USE THE PROTOCOL MORE FRUITFULLY ? I REPLIED THAT I DID NOT THINK THERE WAS A PROBLEM. YOU WOULD BE LOOKING FORWARD BOTH TO GORBACHEV' VISIT AND TO GROMYKO'S FOR WHICH DATES HAD BEEN PROPOSED AT THE END OF MAY 1985. WE WISHED TO SEE PRODUCTIVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AT OTHER LEVELS TOO. THE MFA WOULD NO DOUBT BRIEF GORBACHEV ON THE LIST OF FORTHCOMING ANGLO-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS ON INTERNATIONAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS .

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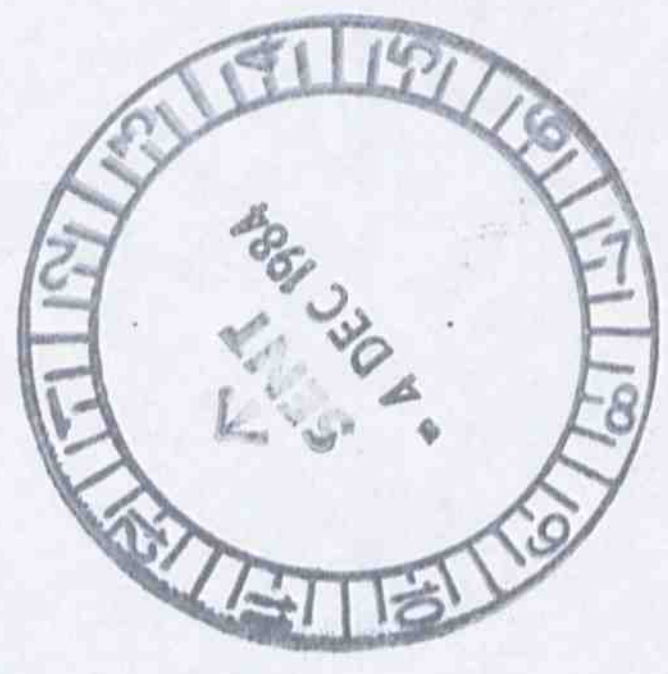
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Mr. Powell

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FROM MOSCOW 041110Z DECEMBER

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1381 OF 4 DECEMBER

INFO FLASH DUBLIN (FOR PS TO PRIME MINISTER , AND SECRETARY OF STATE).

DUBLIN TELNO 1 TO MOSCOW OF 4 DECEMBER.

GORBACHEV VISIT.

1. I WAS RECEIVED BY GORBACHEV FOR 40 MINUTES AT NOON TODAY, 4 DECEMBER, IN HIS OFFICE IN THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUILDING. HE WAS BRISK, BUSINESSLIKE AND CORDIAL. HE HAD NO WISH TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE PROGRAMME FOR HIS VISIT WHICH HE CONSIDERED ADMIRABLE. HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S AND YOUR AGREEMENT TO INCREASING THE NUMBERS AT THE CHEQUERS LUNCH AND THE TALKS WITH YOU. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROBLEM OF SIDE-ARMS FOR HIS BODYGUARDS AND DID NOT CONTEST THE POINTS IN PARA 3D TO G OF YOUR TELNO 382 TO DUBLIN.
2. FOR FULLER ACCOUNT OF MEETING , SEE MIFT

SUTHERLAND