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COMMS OFFICE REG NO.....
D.T.R. 20th DECEMBER 1984 0830HRS.

DESKBY 200300Z 201100 H.K TIME

FM FCO

TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2520 OF 19 DEC

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY (PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY)
FROM BARCLAY (NO 10)

GORBACHEV VISIT

1. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF A CURIOUS EPISODE INVOLVING MR GORBACHEV.
2. SHORTLY AFTER 1700 LOCAL TIME TODAY (WEDNESDAY), GORBACHEV PLUS PARTY WERE PASSING DOWN WHITEHALL BY CAR FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY. GORBACHEV HAD BEEN MEETING DAVID STEEL AND OTHERS. APPARENTLY, AS HE PASSED DOWNING STREET, HE EXPRESSED A WISH TO SEE THE OUTSIDE OF NO 10.
3. THE ACCOMPANYING SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICER NEGOTIATED ACCESS TO THE STREET DIRECT WITH THE POLICEMAN AT THE BARRIER (WITHOUT INFORMING US) AND GORBACHEV AND PARTY WALKED UP. THEY WERE ADMITTED BY THE POLICEMAN ON THE DOOR TO THE FRONT HALL (ONLY). THEY HAD GONE BEFORE ANY PRIVATE SECRETARY REACHED THE SPOT - REPORTEDLY IN GOOD HUMOUR.
4. SO FAR AS WE KNOW THERE WERE NO PHOTOGRAPHERS AND NO PRESS.
5. WE HAVE CONSIDERED WHETHER, SAY, MR THATCHER MIGHT BE ASKED TO INVITE GORBACHEV TO MAKE A PROPER TOUR OF THE STATE ROOMS, IF THE PRIME MINISTER AGREED. BUT FCO ADVICE IS RATHER AGAINST: HE LEAVES LONDON FOR SCOTLAND EARLY ON FRIDAY, AND WAS PROBABLY NOT SHOWING MORE THAN A 'PASSING INTEREST'.

A: PSTO PM'S PARTY
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