

PRIME MINISTER

Reuters report that the Americans are going to expel 55 (repeat 55) Soviet diplomats in retaliation for the Soviets expulsion of five Americans.

I have asked Charlie Price whether this is true. He is checking.

CHARLES

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PS Charlie Price has now confirmed this information though says that the right figure is 69. The Americans are apparently achieving this by putting exactly the same ceiling on Soviet staff in Washington and San Francisco as exists for American staff in Moscow and Leningrad