

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 November 1990

ANGLO-SOVIET RELATIONS

I enclose a copy of Mr. Gorbachev's message to the Prime Minister, which you will see is unusually warm and friendly. Among other things it is the first time, I think, that Mr. Gorbachev has addressed the Prime Minister as "Margaret".

In handing it over, the Soviet Ambassador said there had been consternation in Moscow at the turn of events leading to the Prime Minister's resignation. Gorbachev had sent Shevardnadze out of a high level meeting in the Kremlin to telephone him, to find out what on earth was going on and how such a thing could be conceivable. The Ambassador said that he had indeed found it very hard to explain. Indeed, there was a certain irony. Five years ago they had party coups in the Soviet Union and elections in Britain. Now it seemed to be the other way round.

C. D. POWELL

J. S. Wall, Esq., L.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

*Site HD
bc. PC.
c/Foreign/Wall*