

File

086

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

MR. APPLEYARD

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

ARMS CONTROL: GORBACHEV'S LETTER TO THE  
PRIME MINISTER

I have seen a copy of FCO telegram no. 32 to Nassau asking for authority to give a copy of Gorbachev's recent letter to the Prime Minister to the United States and French Governments. The Prime Minister would be content for this to be done.

Charles Powell  
18 October 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 165

P.M.'s Party (3)  
SOSFA (4)

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FM FCO  
TO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NASSAU  
TELNO 32  
OF 171700Z OCT 85

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY

ARMS CONTROL: GORBACHEV'S LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

1. US EMBASSY HAVE ASKED FOR FULL BRIEFING ON GORBACHEV'S LETTER OF 12 OCTOBER TO THE PRIME MINISTER PROPOSING DIRECT TALKS ABOUT UK NUCLEAR FORCES. FURTHER INTEREST HAS BEEN CREATED BY REPORT IN TODAY'S DAILY TELEGRAPH ABOUT DELIVERY OF THE MESSAGE AND BY INACCURATE DAILY TELEGRAPH LEADER CLAIMING THAT THE RUSSIANS WANTED TO DISCUSS "REDUCTIONS" IN BRITISH FORCES.
2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THERE ARE STRONG REASONS WHY WE SHOULD GIVE A COPY OF THE TEXT OF GORBACHEV'S LETTER TO BOTH US AND FRENCH. NOT TO DO SO WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH RECENT FULL AND PROMPT BRIEFING THE US HAVE GIVEN US ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS AT GENEVA. AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE A REAL INTEREST IN KEEPING CLOSELY IN STEP WITH THE FRENCH AND IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO KEEP THEM INFORMED. GRATEFUL FOR EARLY DECISION,

HOWE

OCCIAN 7580

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