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FM MOSCOW
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1885
OF 221451Z NOVEMBER 88
INFO PRIORITY NEW DELHI, WASHINGTON, ISLAMABAD, KABUL, AMMAN
INFO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, UKMIS NEW YORK, PRETORIA, PEKING

NEW DELHI TELNOS 1296 AND 1312-1315: GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO DELHI:
COMMENT

SUMMARY

1. THE VISIT RECEIVED BLANKET COVERAGE IN THE SOVIET PRESS AND WAS PRESENTED AS A GREAT SUCCESS. A REAFFIRMATION OF THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, WITH DISCUSSION FOCUSSED ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON THE BILATERAL FRONT AND SWEEPING OVER THE ENTIRE RANGE OF FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS, BUT WITHOUT ANY STARTLING NEW INITIATIVES.

DETAIL

2. THE VISIT WAS COVERED EXTENSIVELY IN THE SOVIET MEDIA THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND, WITH THE TEXTS OF THE VARIOUS SPEECHES SUPPLEMENTED BY NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS AND COLOUR PIECES ON ALL STAGES OF THE VISIT. A GREAT DEAL WAS MADE OF THE WARM WELCOME GORBACHEV RECEIVED FROM THE INDIAN PUBLIC. THE VISIT WAS HEADLINED AS MARKING THE INCREASING STRENGTH OF INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS. SINCE THE END OF THE VISIT, THE PRESS HAVE CONTINUED TO REPORT THE VISIT, PROMINENTLY QUOTING FOREIGN COMMENT AND PRAISING THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

BILATERAL

3. AS EXPECTED, THE BILATERAL CONTENT OF THE VISIT WAS CENTRED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXISTING CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE USSR IS CLEARLY APPEARING AS THE BENEFACITOR IN THIS INSTANCE.

FOREIGN POLICY

4. AS PREDICTED IN NEW DELHI TELNO 1296, THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE APPEARS TO HAVE PAPERED OVER ANY DIFFERENCES IN OPINION ON FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS. IT COVERED ALL MAJOR AREAS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH SIDES' RELATIONS WITH CHINA. AS THIS WAS