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DEDIP

FM MOSCOW

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELNO 1472

OF 100800Z DECEMBER 86

MY TELNO 1469: PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE: CALL ON GORBACHEV

SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT MFA TOLD ME TODAY 10 DECEMBER THAT THE CALL IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR 1200Z ON MONDAY 15 DECEMBER.

2. IN CASE THE CALL FOR SOME REASON STILL DOES NOT MATERIALIZE I SHALL NOT (NOT) BE TELLING ANY COLLEAGUES IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING. I AM ALSO LIMITING ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF IT IN THIS EMBASSY AND SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD ENSURE THAT IT DOES NOT LEAK IN LONDON.

3. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE SOVIET PRESS WILL PROBABLY REPORT MY CALL FAIRLY QUICKLY AFTERWARDS I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AUTHORITY TO BRIEF AMBASSADORS OF THE THREE (US, FRANCE AND FRG) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE CALL, AND TO TELL THEM THE MAIN POINTS IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE.

4. IF QUESTIONED BY THE PRESS AFTER THE CALL I WOULD PROPOSE TO SAY NO MORE THAN THAT I HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY GORBACHEV IN ORDER TO TRANSMIT A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER, THE CONTENT OF WHICH MUSH REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. A FULLER LINE TO TAKE COULD THEN BE WORKED OUT IN CONSULTATION WITH YOU, IN THE LIGHT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CALL.

CARTLEDGE

MXHPAN 6821

LIMITED

HD/SOVIET D.

PS

PS/MR RENTON

MR THOMAS

MR RATFORD

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