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From the Private Secretary

11 July 1988

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## PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR: POSSIBLE VISIT OF MR. GORBACHEV

The Soviet Ambassador told the Prime Minister today that he had been able to speak only very briefly to Mr. Gorbachev in Moscow after the party conference. Nonetheless, he had raised the possibility of Mr. Gorbachev's visit to the United Kingdom. Mr. Gorbachev had said that such a visit had a high priority for him and he hoped to pay it in the Spring of next year. But his programme of foreign visits was still being worked out. The Prime Minister said that we would be happy to welcome Mr. Gorbachev whenever it suited him to come.

The Prime Minister also took the opportunity to say she would very much appreciate it if Mr. Gorbachev were able to see Sir Bryan Cartledge before he finally left Moscow in August. Mr. Zamyatin said that he would convey this personal request.

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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