

CONFIDENTIAL
DEDIP/PERSONAL
DD 230600Z MOSCO
FM CADFF TO MOSCO
221830Z FEB
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CONFIDENTIAL
DEDIP/PERSONAL
FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO DESKBY 230600Z MOSCOW
TELNO MISC 089
OF 221830Z FEBRUARY 90

PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR
FROM CHARLES POWELL

THANK YOU FOR TELNO MISC 67 ABOUT BORIS ELTSIN. I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE YOUR DEADLINE, BUT I THINK IT WOULD NONETHELESS BE WORTH WARNING CHERNYAEV THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS CONSIDERING A SHORT MEETING WITH HIM.

I MENTIONED IT TO KOSSOV THIS MORNING, MAKING CLEAR THAT WE HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO SEE HIM OR NOT. I SUGGESTED THAT NOT SEEING HIM MIGHT CAUSE MORE OF A STIR THAN SEEING HIM. IF THE PRIME MINISTER WERE TO SEE HIM, I WAS SURE SHE WOULD MAKE CLEAR HER SUPPORT FOR MR. GORBACHEV AND HIS POLICIES, AND WOULD NO DOUBT LET THE PRESS KNOW THIS AFTERWARDS.

KOSSOV EXPRESSED NO STRONG VIEW BEYOND SAYING THAT ELTSIN'S SPEECHES HAD BECOME MARKEDLY MORE ANTI-GORBACHEV RECENTLY. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE PRO-DEMOCRACY RALLIES ON 25 FEBRUARY AND SEE HOW ELTSIN BEHAVED THEN BEFORE REACHING A DECISION. I JUST LET THIS HANG.

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