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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 November 1981

THE PRESIDENT OF THE YUGOSLAV FEDERAL ASSEMBLY

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 24 November about the visit to this country of the President of the Yugoslav Federal Assembly. She has agreed to receive Mr. Markovic for a short courtesy call at the House after Questions during his visit.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

F. N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*Noted by e.s.
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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Agree to a short call in
the House after questions are
done?

24 November 1981

Point - 28/11

Yes not

Dear Michael,

Mr Dragoslav Markovic, the President (ie Speaker) of the Yugoslav Federal Assembly, may visit London under the FCO Sponsored Visits Scheme with the Lord Privy Seal as his formal host in the first half of next year. Precise timings have yet to be fixed but HM Ambassador at Belgrade has recommended strongly that the Prime Minister should, if possible, receive Markovic for a short courtesy call.

You may recall that when Dr Giosan, the Romanian Speaker visited London in January of this year, he was received by the Prime Minister. The protocol case for such a call is in our view strengthened by Markovic's own qualities. He is a senior (among the top half dozen or so) and apparently still rising figure in the Yugoslav hierarchy and will, when his present term of office at the Federal Assembly ends in the spring, join the Federal Presidency (and take his turn as Head of State at some point in the next few years). He has also been tipped as a possible future Prime Minister. Lord Carrington considers it would therefore be appropriate for the Prime Minister to receive Mr Markovic.

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

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A circular red stamp containing the numbers 1 through 9 arranged in a circle, with a central arrow pointing towards the top right.