

V<sup>o</sup> 10 nsh

CONFIDENTIAL

37237 - 2

PP MOSCOW

GRS 415

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 181900Z NOV 82

TO PRIORITY MOSCOW

TELEGRAM NUMBER 691 OF 19 NOVEMBER

INFO WASHINGTON, BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO

SAVING PRAGUE, BUDAPEST, BUCHAREST, SOFIA, EAST BERLIN, WARSAW,  
BELGRADE, UKDEL MADRID, ROME.

UK/SOVIET RELATIONS

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THAT I HAVE DECIDED TO FLOAT THE IDEA OF A US/SOVIET SUMMIT WITH SHULTZ (MY TELNO 2037 TO WASHINGTON).
2. I HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING ALSO FUTURE POLITICAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE UK AND THE SOVIET UNION, INCLUDING BOTH TALKS AT SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVELS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY MR RIFKIND TO MOSCOW. THE PURPOSE OF SUCH MEETINGS WOULD BE TO PUT ACROSS OUR VIEWS CLEARLY ON A RANGE OF SUBJECTS. THE FOLLOWING ARE POSSIBILITIES:
  - A. TALKS AT EXPERT LEVEL BETWEEN PLANNING STAFFS (WALDEN) IN MOSCOW AND ON THE MIDDLE EAST (GRINEVSKY) IN LONDON.
  - B. A VISIT BY GOODISON TO MOSCOW FOR TALKS WITH THE HEAD OF SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT.
  - C. CONFIRMATION OF THE INVITATION FOR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RYZHOV.
  - D. VISIT BY MR RIFKIND TO MOSCOW FOR TALKS WITH A FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER (KORNIENKO OR MALTSEV).
3. OUR POLICY OVER CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS SET OUT MOST RECENTLY IN MR HURD'S WRITTEN REPLY TO MR LAWRENCE'S PQ ON 18 JUNE 1981. WE HAD STATED AFTER THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN THAT HIGH LEVEL AND MINISTERIAL CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WERE TO BE AVOIDED FOR THE TIME BEING. MR HURD WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THERE WERE OCCASIONALLY HIGH LEVEL AND MINISTERIAL CONTACTS WHERE THESE WERE DEEMED ADVANTAGEOUS. THESE GUIDELINES REMAIN IN FORCE. THE IDEAS SUGGESTED ABOVE FALL WITHIN THEM. BUT WE WOULD CLEARLY WISH TO AVOID BUNCHING THEM IN ORDER NOT TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION OF A SUDDEN CHANGE OF

*It is a sudden shift of policy*

CONFIDENTIAL

37237 - 2

DIRECTION OR POLICY. I AM THEREFORE INCLINED FIRST TO PROPOSE PLANNING STAFF TALKS: WALDEN WOULD BE READY FOR THESE SOON, POSSIBLY BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. I SHOULD WELCOME YOUR ADVICE ON THE TIMING AND ORDER OF THE OTHER POSSIBLE EVENTS. (OUR INITIAL VIEW IS THAT RYZHOV MIGHT BE INVITED TO COME IN JANUARY AND THAT THE PROPOSAL COULD THEN BE MADE THAT MRRIFKIND VISIT MOSCOW IN JUNE 1983.)

4. FOR THE TIME BEING ALSO, AND NOTWITHSTANDING WHAT MAY BE THE PRACTICE AND INTENTIONS OF OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS, I SHOULD NOT (NOT) WISH TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OR SCALE OF OUR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. TO DO SO MIGHT CREATE AN IMPRESSION OF TOTAL NORMALITY IN ANGLO-SOVIET RELATIONS WHICH I WISH TO AVOID.

5. I SHALL WANT TO INFORM THE AMERICANS, AND PROBABLY OUR OTHER CLOSE ALLIES AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, BUT I WOULD NOT WISH YOU TO TAKE ANY SUCH ACTION IN MOSCOW AT THIS STAGE.

PYM

DIST:

LIMITED

EESD

DEFENCE DEPT

NENAD

MED

SAD

ECD(E)

PLANNING STAFF

CRD

RESEARCH

PS

PS/MR HURD

PS/LD BELSTEAD

PS/MR RIFKIND

.PS/PUS

SIR, J BULLARD

MR GOODISON

MR THOMAS

MR. GILMORE