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L. S. P.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 March 1984

Jan. 24.

Mr Chernenko's Speech on 2 March

In your letter of 2 March, you asked for advice on what reply should be sent to the Soviet Ambassador, who had sent a copy of Mr Chernenko's speech to the Prime Minister. You also asked for a note on the speech.

The Soviet Ambassador makes a practice of giving any statements by the Soviet General Secretary a wide circulation to Ministers and senior officials in London. These do not normally call for a written response. Given the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Chernenko on 14 February, we would advise a short acknowledgement on this occasion.

I enclose a line to take and background note on Mr Chernenko's speech for the Prime Minister's use at Question Time on 6 March.

I am copying this letter and the note for use at Question Time to Richard Mottram (MOD) and to Richard Hatfield (Sir Robert Armstrong's office).

Handwritten signature of R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 March, 1984

I write to acknowledge your letter of 2 March, with which you forwarded, for the attention of the Prime Minister, the speech made on that day by Mr. K. Chernenko, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Council.

ATC

His Excellency Monsieur Victor I. Popov

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