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FM MOSCOW 041345Z JAN 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 12 OF 4TH JAN 85

YOUR TELNO 11: MESSAGE FOR CHERNENKO

1. I DELIVERED THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE AT 12.30PM (LOCAL TIME) TODAY, 4 JANUARY, TO VICE-MINISTER RYZHOV. HAVING BEEN ADVISED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT OR ALEXANDROV, I SOUGHT A MEETING WITH GROMYKO. AFTER SOME DELAY I WAS INFORMED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO LEAVES EARLY TOMORROW FOR GENEVA, HAD INSTRUCTED RYZHOV TO SEE ME.

2. IN HANDING OVER THE MESSAGE I SAID THAT MR CHERNENKO WOULD WISH TO CONSIDER IT BEFORE THE GROMYKO/SHULTZ MEETING AND RYZHOV UNDERTOOK THAT IT WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO HIM IMMEDIATELY. HE SPOKE OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO THE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES AND THE GORBACHEV VISIT BUT MADE NO COMMENT OF SUBSTANCE.

3. I SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHING THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MY CALL ON RYZHOV WILL BE REPORTED IN THE SOVIET PRESS. GRATEFUL TO KNOW IF ANY STATEMENT WILL BE MADE IN LONDON.

4. MIFT REPORTS SOME POINTS ON BILATERAL EXCHANGES ALSO COVERED AT THE MEETING.

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