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TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW

TELEGRAM NUMBER 239 OF 11 MARCH

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO

DEATH OF PRESIDENT CHERNENKO

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO MR
TIKHONOV AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

BEGINS.

ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, I EXTEND TO YOU AND TO THE
PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION, SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF
PRESIDENT CHERNENKO. I WELL RECALL MY MEETING WITH HIM IN
MOSCOW IN FEBRUARY 1984. ALTHOUGH HE HELD HIS HIGH OFFICE FOR A
RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD, HIS DEATH HAS DEPRIVED THE SOVIET UNION
OF AN EXPERIENCED LEADER.

ENDS.

2. PLEASE REPORT BY FLASH TELEGRAM AS SOON AS MESSAGE HAS BEEN
DELIVERED. THE TEXT WILL THEN BE RELEASED TO THE PRESS.

HOWE

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