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CONFIDENTIAL

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

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M I P T : EXPULSIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SOVIET COMMUNICATION MADE TO ME ON 22 APRIL.

BEGINS

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR MAKES A PROTEST IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROVOCATIVE ACT TAKEN BY THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES IN RELATION TO A NUMBER OF SOVIET OFFICIALS IN GREAT BRITAIN. THIS ENTIRELY UNJUSTIFIED ACT BEARS A CLEARLY INSPIRED POLITICAL CHARACTER AND IS IN CONTRADICTION WITH STATEMENTS BY THE BRITISH SIDE OF A WISH TO COOPERATE TOWARDS THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. IT SHOULD BE WELL KNOWN TO THE BRITISH SIDE THAT ALL SOVIET OFFICIALS IN ENGLAND ARE OCCUPIED EXCLUSIVELY IN ACTIVITY DIRECTED TO THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET/BRITISH RELATIONS AND STRICTLY OBSERVE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE LAWS OF THE RECEIVING COUNTRY.

ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS UNFRIENDLY ACT COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY RESTS WITH THE BRITISH SIDE.

THE ATTENTION OF THE BRITISH SIDE HAS ALREADY BEEN DRAWN MORE THAN ONCE TO THE FACT THAT SOME OF ITS OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW DO NOT OBSERVE THE RULES OF BEHAVIOUR FOR FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE USSR AND OCCUPY THEMSELVES WITH ACTIVITY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THEIR STATUS. SUCH ILLICIT AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITY IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY NAVAL ATTACHE J MARSHALL, ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE M N LITTLEBOY AND SECOND SECRETARY OF THE EMBASSY E C ROBSON. ACCORDINGLY THE BRITISH SIDE ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THE SOVIET UNION WITH FOURTEEN (14) DAYS.

THE MFA OF THE USSR IS AWARE THAT ASSISTANT AIR ATTACHE C STACEY, ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE J HARDIE, ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE D HEPBURN AND SECOND SECRETARY OF THE EMBASSY C G EDGAR ALSO COMMIT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED INFRINGEMENTS, HOWEVER, GUIDED BY THE INTERESTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET/BRITISH RELATIONS, WE WILL NOT NOW RAISE THE QUESTION OF THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

THE SOVIET UNION IS COUNTING ON THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES TO REFRAIN IN FUTURE FROM UNJUSTIFIED ACTIONS AGAINST SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON AND IN THE SAME MANNER NOT TO CREATE OBSTACLES TO THE NORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

ENDS

SUTHERLAND

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