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OO FCO (DESKBY 221300Z)

OO WASHINGTON

OO PARIS

OO BONN

OO UKDEL NATO

OO MODUK

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SPE

JMM

221200Z APR 85

FROM COMMCEN HSP

TO MODUK

Mr. Goodall

CONFIDENTIAL UK COMMS ONLY

SIC

GR 450

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 221300Z

FM MOSCOW 221200Z APR 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 541 OF 22ND APR 85

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO,
MODUK (FOR HAAL)

NY TELNO 539: EXPULSIONS

1. I HAVE INFORMED ALL MEMBERS OF MY STAFF NOW IN MOSCOW AND NAMED IN THE SOVIET COMMUNICATION. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE PUT IN HAND FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE THREE REQUIRED TO LEAVE WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS. I HAVE CAUTIONED THOSE AGAINST WHOM ALLEGATIONS ONLY HAVE BEEN MADE TO KEEP THE INFORMATION TO THEMSELVES. OF THE FOUR IN THIS CATEGORY LT CDR HARDIE IS DUE TO RETURN TO MOSCOW FROM WARSAW LATER TODAY. SON LDR STACEY IS ON LEAVE IN THE UK AND WHEN THE MOB ADVISE HIM HE SHOULD BE SIMILARLY CAUTIONED. I ADVISE THAT NOTHING REPEAT NOTHING SHOULD BE SAID IN PUBLIC ABOUT THE NAMING OF THESE FOUR MEMBERS OF MY STAFF.

2. THE RUSSIANS HAVE CHOSEN TO ESCALATE IN THE FIRST ROUND AND TO CONFINE THEIR RETALIATION TO EMBASSY STAFF SEMI COLON ALSO TO GIVE US A LITTLE MORE TIME. THE REFERENCE IN THEIR PROTEST TO THE THREE OTHER ASSISTANT SERVICE ATTACHES AND EDGAR IS CLEARLY INTENDED AS A THREAT OF FURTHER RETALIATION IF WE PROCEED, AS WE HAVE STATED, TO THE EXPULSION OF ZAIKIN, CHERKASOV AND BELAVENTSEV. I AM NATURALLY CONCERNED THAT WE SHOULD MINIMIZE THE EXTENT OF FURTHER RETALIATION AND TO AVOID A SUCCESSION OF TIT-FOR-TAT ACTIONS IN WHICH, AS HAS ALWAYS BEEN RECOGNISED, THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE THE ULTIMATE ADVANTAGE GIVEN THE NATURE OF THEIR SOCIETY. WE MUST CLEARLY PROCEED TO TAKE THE ACTION AGAINST ZAIKIN, CHERKASOV AND BELAVENTSEV ANTICIPATED BY THOMAS (FCO TELNO 384). I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AS MUCH NOTICE AS POSSIBLE OF THE FURTHER STATEMENT TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN LONDON.

3. HAVING ESCALATED IN THE FIRST ROUND IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT THE RUSSIANS WILL LET IT GO AT THAT. THE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE INCREASED IF WE DO NOT GIVE IMMEDIATE PUBLICITY TO THE EXPULSION OF THE THREE. BUT I THINK IT MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT THEY WILL GO FOR A SECOND ROUND AND PICK AT LEAST TWO OF THE FURTHER FOUR NAMED IN THE PROTEST NOTE, LEAVING IT AT FIVE-ALL EXPELLED ON BOTH SIDES. BUT GIVEN THE THREE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY NAMED BY US, I CERTAINLY DO NOT EXCLUDE THE EXPULSION OF THREE OR EVEN FOUR OF THOSE NOW PUT ON WARNING.

THE CEILING

4. THERE IS NO IMPLICATION IN WHAT DR SUSLOV SAID THAT THE SOVIETS INTEND TO IMPOSE A CEILING ON THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. BUT THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THEY WILL NOT DO SO THEY MAY KEEP THIS UNTIL THE NEXT ROUND AND POSSIBLY UNTIL WE APPLY FOR VISAS FOR REPLACEMENTS.

PRESS LINE

5. EVEN IF I WAS NOT OBSERVED CALLING AT THE MFA, THE PRESS HERE WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO ASK WHETHER I HAVE BEEN SUMMONED FOLLOWING THE ACTION ANNOUNCED IN LONDON ON 18 APRIL AND TO WHAT EFFECT. UNTIL FURTHER IN TRUCTED, I PROPOSE TO SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN SUMMONED BUT THAT THE NATURE OF MY COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REMAINS FOR THE MOMENT CONFIDENTIAL. SUSLOV DID NOT SAY WHETHER THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD BE GIVING PUBLICITY TO THE COUNTER EXPULSIONS AND INTENTIONALLY I DID NOT ENQUIRE. I THINK IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR US TO GO PUBLIC FIRST ON THE EXPULSION OF THE THREE MEMBERS OF MY STAFF. GRATEFUL FOR EARLY INSTRUCTIONS.

SUTHERLAND

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