

TOP SECRET
and STRICTLY
PERSONAL

Private Secretary

The Ambassador's last word
on the Family and
Free Travel Area, just received.

Mrs Llewellyn-Smith

4/9

FM MOSCOW No 811 of 3 Sept 85

T O P S E C R E T ADDRESSEE ONLY ~~IS~~ DECYPHER YOURSELF
FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR LLEWELLYN-SMITH FROM HMA
YOUR TELNO 761: HETMAN

1. THE FAMILY (PARA 3 OF YTUR). I SEE THE STRONGEST OBJECTIONS TO CONTINUING TO PURSUE WHAT WE KNOW TO BE A LOST CAUSE. IF CAN ONLY SIGNAL WEAKNESS TO THE RUSSIANS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO ESCALATE THEIR COUNTER-THREATS: WE COULD RISK LOSING THE INITIATIVE IN THE ENTIRE OVERT EXCHANGE. HAVING MADE OUR ATTEMPT, ON THE APPROPRIATE (COVERT) CHANNEL, AND (AS WE EXPECTED) GOT NOWHERE, WE SHOULD LEAVE IT AT THAT. WE HAVE, AFTER ALL, OUR OWN PEOPLE AND OUR LONG-TERM INTERESTS TO CONSIDER. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, AND ALSO BECAUSE I DO NOT WISH TO SEE OUR FORTHCOMING EXCHANGES HERE IN MOSCOW DAMAGED BY AN ESSENTIALLY EXTRANEIOUS FACTOR, I WOULD BE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO TAKING ANY ACTION HERE IN SUPPORT OF WHATEVER MORE MAY BE SAID IN LONDON ON THE FAMILY QUESTION (AS DISTINCT FROM OUR DEMARCHE ON EXPULSIONS AND WITHDRAWALS).

2. FREE TRAVEL AREA. (PARA 4 OF YTUR). I HAVE LITTLE TO ADD TO THE ARGUMENTS IN PARA 6 OF MY TELNO 806 EXCEPT TO POINT OUT THAT THE INEVITABLE RETALIATORY MEASURES HERE (UNIQUE TO THE UK) WOULD DAMAGE NOT ONLY OUR MILITARY

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THE MAIN ARGUMENT, HOWEVER, REMAINS THE POTENTIAL EFFECT ON THE MORALE OF THE STAFF OF THIS EMBASSY, WHO WOULD PROBABLY BE EXCLUDED FROM RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OPEN TO THEIR WESTERN COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS. IN LOCAL TERMS WE WOULD ACTUALLY BE HELPING THE RUSSIANS TO MAKE PARIAS OF US.

GRSODD

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