

MU FAX

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HPLNAN 6891 MXHPAN 0539  
UNCLASSIFIED  
ZZ FCOLN  
FM MOSCO TO FCOLN  
141430Z SEP  
GRS 375

1171 Days  
"Press informed -  
Text follows"

UNCLASSIFIED  
FM MOSCOW  
TO FLASH FCO  
TELNO 1172  
OF 141430Z SEPTEMBER 85

MIPT : RETALIATORY EXPULSIONS FROM MOSCOW

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MY STATEMENT TO RESIDENT BRITISH JOURNALISTS  
AT 1730 LOCAL TIME ON 14 SEPTEMBER

AT 3PM TODAY I WAS SUMMONED TO THE SOVIET MFA BY THE HEAD OF THE  
SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT, DR SUSLOV. HE READ OUT A  
STATEMENT IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED THE ACTION TAKEN IN LONDON ON  
12 SEPTEMBER AS MALICIOUS AND HOSTILE, AND DESIGNED TO POISON  
ANGLO-SOVIET RELATIONS. AFTER PROTESTING AGAINST THIS ACTION,  
HE ACCUSED A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF MY STAFF, RESIDENT BRITISH  
BUSINESSMEN AND BRITISH JOURNALISTS OF ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES  
INCOMPATIBLE WITH THEIR OFFICIAL STATUS. HE GAVE ME A LIST OF  
THEIR NAMES, AS FOLLOWS (SEE MY TWO MIPTS). HE SAID THAT THEY  
WERE REQUIRED TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION WITHIN THREE WEEKS.

2. I TOLD DR SUSLOV THAT THESE ACCUSATIONS WERE TOTALLY  
UNJUSTIFIED AND WHOLLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. I CATEGORICALLY  
DENIED THAT ANY MEMBER OF MY STAFF, OR ANY OF THE BRITISH  
REPRESENTATIVES NAMED IN HIS LIST, HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN IMPROPER  
ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND. I REGISTERED A FORMAL PROTEST IN THE  
STRONGEST TERMS AGAINST THIS UNWARRANTED ACT.

3. ON RETURNING TO THE EMBASSY, I REPORTED THE SOVIET COMMUNICATION  
TO THE FCO IN LONDON. I THEN ARRANGED FOR AS MANY OF THOSE  
NAMED IN THE SOVIET LIST AS WE COULD CONTACT TO BE INFORMED OF  
THE SOVIET ACTION. I HAVE TOLD THE EMBASSY STAFF CONCERNED THAT  
THEY ARE EVIDENTLY THE VICTIMS OF A WHOLLY UNJUSTIFIED AND  
VINDICTIVE ACT OF RETALIATION BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AGAINST  
THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY HMG ON 12 SEPTEMBER IN DEFENCE OF  
THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UK. I HAVE ASSURED THEM THAT NO  
BLAME OR STIGMA OF ANY KIND ATTACHES TO THEM; THEY WILL BE SADLY  
MISSED.

4. THOSE OF US WHO REMAIN WILL HAVE THE TASK OF ENDEAVOURING TO  
REBUILD, DESPITE THIS ENORMOUS SETBACK, A SOUND AND CONSTRUCTIVE  
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. OUR RELATIONS HAVE RECOVERED  
FROM SUCH SETBACKS BEFORE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH HARD WORK  
AND A REALISTIC APPROACH THEY CAN DO SO AGAIN.

CARTLEDGE

Mufaxed at 1030

Charles -  
from RTA's office.  
Cameron.

- Q. DID GORDIEVSKY DEFECT BECAUSE HE WAS BLOWN BY TIEDGE?
- A. (Unattributable) There is no connection between Gordievsky's defection and Tiedge: Gordievsky's defection took place some weeks before the Tiedge affair.

- Q. WAS IT A DANISH RATHER THAN A BRITISH SUCCESS AS DANISH MINISTER OF JUSTICE SEEMS TO HAVE SUGGESTED?

- A. I do not want to comment on statements by the Danish Minister of Justice.

(Unattributable) Any idea that the British simply took over a Danish agent is quite untrue. But as you know, Gordievsky belonged to the Third Department of the KGB which conducts operations against Scandinavia and Britain. There was therefore very close cooperation with the Danish Security Service from the very beginning.