

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MOSCOW

TO FLASH FCC

TELNO 1179

OF 141800Z SEPTEMBER 85

FOR HEAD OF SOVIET DEPT

EXPULSIONS FROM MOSCOW

TASS IN ENGLISH HAVE BRIEFLY REPORTED MY SUMMONS TO THE MFA AND THE EXPULSIONS, BUT WITHOUT GIVING NAMES OR NUMBERS. THE REPORT REFERS TO A PROTEST HAVING BEEN MADE TO ME ABOUT A 'GROSS PROVOCATIVE ACTION' IN REGARD TO A NUMBER OF SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAD BEEN REQUIRED TO LEAVE THE UK. THE TASS STATEMENT FOLLOWS CLOSELY THE WORDING OF SUSLOV'S STATEMENT BUT OMITTS:-

- A. ANY MENTION OF NUMBERS EXPELLED BY EITHER SIDE
- B. THE TIME SCALE OF WITHDRAWAL
- C. THE NAMES OF THOSE EXPELLED BY EITHER SIDE
- D. ALL REFERENCE TO THE 'BRITISH SPECIAL SERVICES' OR THE 'ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF A SOVIET CITIZEN'.

2. THE SAME STATEMENT WAS READ OUT ON THE VREMYA PROGRAMME ON TV THIS EVENING WITH NO FURTHER DETAILS

3. THE IMPLICATION FOR TASS READERS IS THAT A STRAIGHT TIT FOR TAT HAS TAKEN PLACE WITH SOME EMBARRASMENT ON THE SOVIET SIDE AT THE NUMBERS INVOLVED.

CARTLEDGE

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