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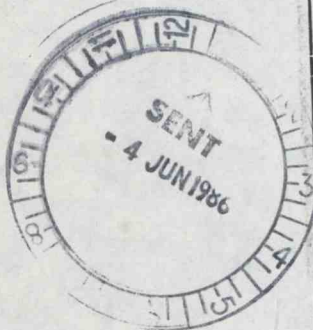
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PS/LADY YOUNG  
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~~MR DEREK THOMAS~~  
MR GOODALL  
MR RATFORD  
MR ~~DAUNT~~  
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INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO

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MIPT: VISIT ON A BRITISH IPU DELEGATION TO THE SOVIET UNION,  
23 MAY - 2 JUNE.

COMMENT

1. FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY VIEW POINT THE VISIT WENT WELL. THE DELEGATION, REPRESENTING A WIDE RANGE OF POLITICAL VIEWS, PROVED TO BE A COHESIVE AND EFFECTIVE DEMONSTRATION IN MICROCOSM OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. THEIR SOVIET HOSTS CANNOT BUT HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE COMBINATION OF WIDELY DIVERGENT VIEWPOINTS WITH EXCELLENT PERSONAL RELATIONS. THE SUPREME SOVIET WENT TO GREAT TROUBLE TO PROVIDE A FULL AND VARIED PROGRAMME BOTH IN MOSCOW AND IN THE PROVINCES, OF WHICH THE DELEGATION WAS GENUINELY APPRECIATIVE.
2. LORD WHITELAW WAS THE IDEAL DELEGATION LEADER, INSPIRING AND MAINTAINING THE BASIC UNITY OF DELEGATION WHILE KEEPING A TACTFULLY LOW PROFILE IN DISCUSSION SESSIONS.
3. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE DELEGATION DECIDED AT MY BRIEFING SESSION TO DRAFT A COMPREHENSIVE LETTER ON BOTH FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS CASES WHICH WAS HENDED TO VOSS, WHO PROMISED AN EARLY AND SPECIFIC REPLY. THIS METHOD OF HANDLING THE ISSUE AVOIDED ARGUMENTS ACROSS THE TABLE OVER SPECIFIC CASES.
4. PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WHO WERE SEEING THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE VISIT WAS INSTRUCTIVE. THANKS TO TEREILOV, (CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COURT AND FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE, THE SENIOR RUSSIAN TRAVELLING WITH THE PARTY) THE DELEGATION WITNESSED

SUPREME COURT AND FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE, THE SENIOR RUSSIAN TRAVELLING WITH THE PARTY) THE DELEGATION WITNESSED (PARTICULARLY IN GEORGIA) THE DISCORD WHICH CAN ARISE BETWEEN REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS AND THEIR MOSCOW MASTERS. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE INTERVENED TO LAY DOWN THE MOSCOW LINE WHERE IT DIFFERED FROM A REGIONAL VIEW POINT. THE COMBINATION OF LOW MATERIAL STANDARDS WITH ELITISM ALSO MADE A SALUTORY IMPRESSION ON THE NEW-COMERS.

5. FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S POINT OF VIEW THERE WERE SOME DISAPPOINTMENTS, PARTICULARLY AT THE MEETING WITH GROMYKO WHERE THE DELEGATION - PERHAPS THROUGH FATIGUE AFTER TEN GRUELLING DAYS - WERE LESS WELL FOCUSED ON CURRENT ISSUES THAN THEY HAD BEEN FOR THE CALL ON GORBACHEV ON 26 MAY. PERHAPS INEVITABLY, CONSIDERATIONS OF AVOIDING OPEN RIFTS IN THE DELEGATION AND OF COURTESY TOWARDS THEIR HOSTS TENDED TO PREVAIL OVER THE DESIRABILITY OF ROBUST CRITICISM OF SOVIET AND DEFENCE OF UK POSITIONS. BUT THE VISIT AS A WHOLE AND THE DELEGATION'S FRIENDLY BUT DIGNIFIED STYLE HAS GENERATED SIGNIFICANT GOODWILL AND MADE A HEALTHY CONTRIBUTION TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. I AM GRATEFUL TO THE DELEGATION, AND PARTICULARLY TO LORD WHITELAW, FOR ACHIEVING THIS RESULT AND FOR COMPLETING AN ARDUOUS COURSE IN SUCH GOOD ORDER.

CARTLEDGE

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