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SIR PERCY CRADOCK

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW: EASTERN EUROPE

The Prime Minister thinks that it would be helpful to have, in good time before her visit to Moscow, a fresh assessment of the position of the East European countries in relation to the Soviet Union. There have, of course, been a number of such assessments in the past, but she believes they need updating to take account of the Gorbachev factor as well as internal developments within at least some of the countries concerned. The purpose of the assessment would be to consider the extent to which the Warsaw Pact is likely to remain cohesive under Gorbachev's leadership, the possibility of emerging social and political tensions both within the East European societies and between them and the Soviet Union, likely Soviet reactions, and the degree to which the Soviet Union will be able to maintain control. Unless there is a very recent JIC piece which I have overlooked, it would be helpful if such an assessment could be put in hand and be available at least by the time of the Seminar on the Soviet Union which is to be held at the end of February.

Charles Powell

5 January 1987

DG2BPW

CCPE

Ja 02447

13 January 1987

MR. POWELLEDP
13/1cc Chairman
Mr BurkePRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW: EASTERN EUROPE at Flap

1. Sir Percy Cradock has passed to me your minute of 5 January about the Prime Minister's request for a fresh assessment of the position of the East European countries in relation to the Soviet Union.
2. We have not produced a piece on this since 29 May 1986 (JIC(86)(N) 63, Gorbachev's Relations with Eastern Europe). We will produce a new JIC assessment, taking account of the points you have mentioned. I note that it should be available before the end of February.

mhall

P E HALL

Soviet Union PM's visit Policy - Jan '87.



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