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ANGLO-SOVIET RELATIONS: STATEMENT BY SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY
SPOKESMAN

1. TASS IN ENGLISH CARRIED A STATEMENT BY GERASIMOV ON ANGLO-SOVIET RELATIONS DURING A ROUTINE MFA PRESS CONFERENCE ON 3 FEBRUARY.
2. THE STATEMENT WAS AS FOLLOWS: BEGINS

"IN RECENT DAYS, SUCH LEADING BRITISH FIGURES AS MARGARET THATCHER, GEOFFREY HOWE AND TIMOTHY RENTON HAVE MADE STATEMENTS APPARENT IN WHICH IS THE WISH TO TELL THE WORLD THAT THE CURRENT BRITISH GOVERNMENT "HAS DESERVED THE RESPECT OF THE RUSSIANS" ONLY DUE TO FIRM RELIANCE OF THE FORMER ON THE POSITION OF STRENGTH POLICY. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY IN WHITEHALL HAVE STARTED A CAMPAIGN OF SELF-ADVERTISEMENT ON THE EVE OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN THAT COUNTRY.

"WE VIEW THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN STARTING IN BRITAIN AS HER PURELY DOMESTIC AFFAIR. YET WE ARE RESOLUTELY AGAINST THIS SO CALLED "INTERPRETATION" OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET-BRITISH DIALOGUE AND RELATIONS IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

IT IS APPROPRIATE TO RECALL IN THAT CONNECTION THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN, BUT NOT MORE THAN SHE HERSELF IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH US. THIS IS A RECIPROCAL PROCESS AND SHOULD BE DONE FROM BOTH DIRECTIONS, HONESTLY AND RESPECTFULLY TOWARDS THE PARTNER. THIS IS ALSO IN BRITAIN'S BEST INTERESTS." ENDS

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