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UNCLASSIFIED  
FM MOSCOW  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELNO 570  
OF 030500Z APRIL 87

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PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SOVIET UNION: SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE

SUMMARY

1. EXTENSIVE FACTUAL COVERAGE CONTINUED IN IZVESTIYA OF 1 APRIL AND PRAVDA OF 2 APRIL. MAIN FEATURES WERE FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS OF FAREWELL CEREMONY.

DETAIL

2. THE FRONT PAGE OF IZVESTIYA ON 1 APRIL AND PRAVDA OF 2 APRIL CONTAINED FULL BUT FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE FAREWELL CEREMONY. PRAVDA GAVE DETAILS OF THE BRITISH PROGRAMME. IZVESTIYA REPORTED THE TALKS WITH RYZHKOV AT SOME LENGTH.

3. REFERRING TO THE RESTRICTED DINNER, IZVESTIYA'S FRONT PAGE ALSO MENTIONED SEPARATELY THAT GORBACHEV AND RYZHKOV ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR WIVES HAD MET 'MARGARET THATCHER' IN INFORMAL SURROUNDINGS.

4. IZVESTIYA ALSO CONTAINED DETAILS OF THE OPENING OF THE BRITISH/SOVIET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND VISIT TO THE INSTITUTE OF CRYSTALOGRAPHY. IT ALSO PUBLISHED THE TEXTS OF THE MOU ON CULTURE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION AND THE AGREEMENT ON SPACE COOPERATION.

5. PRAVDA'S LONDON CORRESPONDENT MASLENNIKOV HAD A SMALL PIECE REPORTING THE POSITIVE REACTION TO THE VISIT FROM THE BRITISH PRESS.

6. THIS WEEK'S MOSCOW NEWS ALSO HAS A REPORT OF THE VISIT WRITTEN BEFORE THE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS. IT INCLUDES A WARMER PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PRIME MINISTER WITH GORBACHEV BEFORE THE TALKS AND THE ONLY PHOTOGRAPH WE HAVE YET SEEN IN THE SOVIET PRESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER LIGHTING A CANDLE IN ZAGORSK.

7. ON PAST FORM WE DO NOT EXPECT SOVIET PRESS COMMENT ON THE VISIT UNTIL THE WEEKEND.

CARTLEDGE

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MXHPAN 9028

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