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*From the Private Secretary*

25 November 1987

**POSSIBLE VISIT OF MR. GORBACHEV**

Mr. Kossov of the Soviet Embassy telephoned me early this morning to say that he had received a cable from Moscow saying that it was not intended to make any announcement about a stop-over by Mr. Gorbachev in the United Kingdom today. The Embassy would be kept appropriately informed. I asked Mr. Kossov whether he thought this signalled any change in plans. He said that he had no reason to think so. I reminded him that it would become increasingly more difficult to keep news of the intended visit secret. I hoped very much that we could have an early announcement. It would be helpful if he pressed this upon people in Moscow if he was in contact with them during the day.

I am copying this letter to John Howe (Ministry of Defence).

(C. D. POWELL)

A. C. Galsworthy, Esq. C.M.G.  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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