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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal Minute

No. MIS 187

SUBJECT cc MASTER  
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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

I am most grateful to all the members of your Department concerned with the arrangements for Mr. Gorbachev's visit for their efforts, and above all to the Royal Air Force who performed magnificently. I am writing to the Station Commander to express my thanks. But I should like you to know how very thankful I am for what can truly be described as an outstanding effort, which reflects credit not just on those concerned but on the country as a whole.

*Nigel Shafter*

8 December 1987

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FILE  
MJ

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 December 1987

*Dear Group Captain Lumb.*

May I say how immensely grateful I am for the magnificent way in which RAF Brize Norton rose to the challenge of Mr Gorbachev's visit. The arrangements were outstandingly good and reflect enormous credit on all those concerned. It must have been a considerable diversion from your normal duties. But I hope it was also some satisfaction to know that you have contributed to such an historic event. Few of you probably imagined that the Soviet leader and his wife would one day be your guests. But your hospitality was remarkable, and I know that they left happy at the success of their brief visit and the warmth of the welcome they received.

It was particularly generous of you to present the really beautiful pieces of silver to Mrs Gorbachev and to me. They will be a lasting record of a unique occasion.

I should be grateful if you could pass on my warm thanks to all those concerned for their excellent work, together with my best wishes for a Happy Christmas.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Margaret Thatcher*

Group Captain C. P. Lumb, O.B.E., R.A.F.  
Station Commander, RAF Brize Norton, Oxford OX8 3LX

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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

9 December 1987

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you and all your men for the excellent arrangements made for the visit of the Soviet General Secretary and Mrs Gorbachev on Monday. Although it was a very short visit the Prime Minister knows how much work is involved and she is grateful to you for ensuring that the external policing arrangements, especially involving Mrs Gorbachev's visit, went so smoothly.

I should be grateful if you could pass on the Prime Minister's thanks to all concerned.

(CHARLES POWELL)

C. Smith, Esq., CVO.

DTS