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FM MOSCOW  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 1750  
OF 091220Z DECEMBER 87  
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKDEL CSCE VIENNA, PARIS BONN

MY TELNO 1745: GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO THE UK: FURTHER SOVIET PRESS  
COVERAGE

SUMMARY

1. SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS  
CONFERENCE IN PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA OF 9 DECEMBER.

DETAIL

2. IN THEIR FOREIGN NEWS PAGES ON 9 DECEMBER BOTH PRAVDA AND  
IZVESTIYA CARRIED EXTENSIVE QUOTATIONS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S  
PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING HER MEETING WITH GORBACHEV ON 7 DECEMBER.  
THESE EMPHASISE THE VERY GOOD ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING, THE  
PRIME MINISTER'S PLEASURE AT SEEING MR AND MRS GORBACHEV AGAIN,  
AND HER INTEREST IN PERESTROIKA. HER COMMENTS ON GORBACHEV'S  
STRONG PERSONALITY AND BOLD AND DECISIVE LEADERSHIP ARE QUOTED.  
PRAVDA PRINTS IN FULL THE EXTENSIVE STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME  
MINISTER TO ITS CORRESPONDENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (9 DECEMBER) HAS REPORTED BRITISH NEWSPAPER  
COMMENT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN  
SUPPORTING ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS ON THE EVE OF THE SUMMIT HAS  
GIVEN RISE TO 'A STORM OF INDIGNATION IN THE CAMP OF THE AMERICAN  
HAWKS,' WHO REGARD SUCH APPEALS FROM LONDON AT THE MOMENT AS  
'MORE THAN MISPLACED'. THE CORRESPONDENT COMMENTS THAT THE  
IMPROVEMENT OF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN EUROPE IS NOT TO THE TASTE  
OF SUCH PEOPLE.

CARTLEDGE

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