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FM WASHINGTON
TO DESKBY 150900Z FCO
TELNO 2759
OF 150430Z NOVEMBER 88
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, MOSCOW
INFO PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO

POSSIBLE VISIT BY GORBACHEV TO THE UNITED STATES

1. CBS CARRIED A REPORT THIS EVENING (WHICH HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN PICKED UP BY THE OTHER NETWORKS) THAT GORBACHEV WILL BE VISITING NEW YORK IN EARLY DECEMBER TO MAKE A SPEECH TO THE UN AND WILL BE MEETING PRESIDENT REAGAN AND PRESIDENT-ELECT BUSH THERE. LATE THIS EVENING, MEDIA REPORTS WERE ADDING THAT US GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAD CONFIRMED THE MAIN OUTLINE OF THIS REPORT.
2. THE MINISTER THEREFORE SPOKE TO MRS RIDGWAY. SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THE REPORTS. THE ADMINISTRATION WERE STILL WAITING FOR CONFIRMATION FROM MOSCOW. SHE UNDERTOOK TO LET US KNOW AS SOON AS THE SITUATION WAS CLEARER. A SEPARATE CONTACT IN STATE TELLS US THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR DUBININ CALLED AT VERY SHORT NOTICE ON SHULTZ ON THE EVENING OF 13 NOVEMBER, THIS WAS APPARENTLY THE FIRST INDICATION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION RECEIVED OF A POSSIBLE GORBACHEV VISIT TO THE UN.
3. WE HAVE ALSO SPOKEN TO LEDSKY (NSC). HE TOO SAID THAT THE DETAILS REMAINED UNCLEAR BUT THAT GORBACHEV SEEMED TO BE THINKING IN TERMS OF VISITING NEW YORK ONLY WHILE IN THE US. LEDSKY BELIEVED THAT THE DATES OF 6 AND 7 DECEMBER HAD BEEN MENTIONED, AND THAT THIS VISIT WOULD BE PART OF A WEEK OF OVERSEAS TRAVEL BY GORBACHEV.
4. WE WILL TAKE FURTHER SOUNDINGS IN THE MORNING AND WILL ENSURE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY IS BROUGHT UP TO DATE ON THEIR ARRIVAL.
5. PLEASE ADVANCE TO POWELL AND INGHAM, NO. 10.

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