

TOP 151856

AAAA
151700Z NOV 88
FM CABINET OFFICE
TO AIRBORNE 002 DESKBY 151800Z
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L
AIRBORNE 002
FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL
FM WASHINGTON
TO DESKBY 151800Z FCO
TELNO 2761
OF 151700Z NOVEMBER 88
AND TO DESKBY 151800Z CABINET OFFICE
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO
INFO PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, MOSCOW

CABINET OFFICE PLEASE PASS URGENTLY TO PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY
ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT.

MY TELNO 2759: VISIT BY GORBACHEV TO THE UNITED STATES
1. I HAVE NOW TOUCHED BASE WITH SIMONS (STATE) WHO WAS
DISTINCTLY MORE FORTHCOMING THAN WAS RIDGWAY. SOME OF WHAT
FOLLOWS WILL NO DOUBT SOON BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE BUT I SHOULD
BE GRATEFUL IF SIMONS' CONFIDENCE COULD BE RESPECTED.
2. SIMONS EXPLAINED THAT THIS HAD BEEN A SOVIET PROPOSAL,
WHICH HAD RAISED A NUMBER OF HACKLES HERE BECAUSE OF THE
ELEMENT OF QUEUE JUMPING AND BECAUSE IT REMAINED THE US VIEW
THAT SUMMIT MEETINGS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PREPARED BY FOREIGN
MINISTERS AND TAKE PLACE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES. BUT,
AFTER CONSIDERATION IN A VERY NARROW CIRCLE HERE (SIMONS
HIMSELF HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE ACT SOMEWHAT BELATEDLY)
IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE BUT THAT
ITS FORM SHOULD BE SUCH AS TO REFLECT US THINKING ON THE PROPER
PROCEDURES FOR A SUBSTANTIVE MEETING. THEY WERE THEREFORE THINKING
OF A QUOTE MAINLY SOCIAL UNQUOTE EDXENT, CENTRED AROUND A LUNCH QUOTE
IN THE NEW YORK AREA UNQUOTE ON 7 DECEMBER. THE US TEAM WOULD BE
KEPT SMALL, AND WOULD INCLUDE THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND
SECRETARY SHULTZ.
3. SIMONS ADDED THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD STILL NOT CONFIRMED
THEIR AGREEMENT TO THESE PROPOSALS. SHULTZ WAS OF COURSE
VERY CONSCIOUS OF HAVING TO GET TO BRUSSELS IN TIME FOR THE NAC.
PRESENT THINKING WAS THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO BY THE
MORNING OF 8 DECEMBER. THE AMERICANS WERE STILL THINKING ABOUT
WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE BERLIN DINNER.

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