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UNITED KINGDOM MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
845 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

PERSONAL

9 December 1988

Rie Smith

MS

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15/xii*

Charles Powell Esq
10 DOWNING STREET

Dear Charles,

GORBACHEV VISIT TO NEW YORK

As a postscript to Gorbachev's decision to postpone his visit to Britain, I thought I should pass on the brief exchange I had with him at the Secretary-General's reception on the evening of 8 December. I made some remark about his forthcoming visit to Britain. He replied that he was much looking forward to it. Not only did he find invariably useful his discussions with the Prime Minister, but he also greatly enjoyed them: she was a friend.

2. You will have seen Gorbachev in action many times, but for a newcomer I found him most impressive: not just for the charisma which surrounds all genuine leaders, but for his speed of mind and intentness. He gave no signs of having had a long hard day with his biological clock askew. It was obvious that at that point he had no idea about changing his plans and returning directly to Moscow.

Tomorrow

Crispin

Crispin Tickell