

CAB/WTE 001/3

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FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON  
TO THE WHITE HOUSE  
ZEM

S E C R E T

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO GENERAL POWELL FROM CHARLES  
POWELL, NO.10 DOWNING STREET

SUBJECT: MOSCOW HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

THANK YOU FOR SHOWING US THE DRAFT OF THE PROPOSED WHITE HOUSE  
PRESS STATEMENT. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR EFFORTS ON THIS AND  
THINK IT REPRESENTS A VERY FAIR PRESENTATION OF THE VIEWS WE  
BOTH SHARE ON THE CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD NEED TO BE MET IF WE  
ARE TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW.

WE PROPOSE TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE SPECIFIC IN OUR OWN STATEMENT,  
ALTHOUGH THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF COMMON GROUND WITH YOURS. OUR  
TEXT WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

MOSCOW HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE: LINE FOR THE PRESS

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO THE  
HOLDING OF A CSCE CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN DIMENSION IN MOSCOW  
IN 1991, PROVIDED THAT RECENT PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE  
SOVIET UNION IS MAINTAINED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNITED  
STATES HAS REACHED A SIMILAR CONCLUSION.

PROGRESS MADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES  
OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAS FULLY JUSTIFIED OUR INSISTENCE ON  
FIRM COMMITMENTS BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN THIS FIELD, AS  
THE CONDITION FOR OUR AGREEMENT THAT THE 1991 MEETING BE HELD  
IN MOSCOW.

IN PARTICULAR:

- THE GREAT MAJORITY OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES HAVE BEEN  
RESOLVED (THE LONG-STANDING UNITED KINGDOM LIST WAS CLEARED  
LAST YEAR):
- JEWISH AND OTHER EMIGRATION FIGURES HAVE INCREASED  
SUBSTANTIALLY AND MANY LONG-TERM REFUSENIKS HAVE BEEN  
ALLOWED OUT:
- CONDITIONS ON WHICH REFUSENIKS ARE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE  
HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY EASED:
- ALL PRISONERS COMMITTED UNDER THE EXPLICITLY POLITICAL AND  
RELIGIOUS ARTICLES OF THE CRIMINAL CODE ARE BEING RELEASED  
AND THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO REVIEW ALL  
OTHER OUTSTANDING CASES:
- THE JAMMING OF WESTERN BROADCASTS TO THE SOVIET UNION HAS  
CEASED:
- PRESIDENT GORBACHEV HAS GIVEN FIRM ASSURANCES BEFORE THE WORLD  
IN HIS UN SPEECH ABOUT THE REFORM OF THE SOVIET CRIMINAL  
CODE AND THE EMBODIMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN LEGISLATION.

THIS IS A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS' PERFORM-  
ANCE WHICH WE WELCOME. NONETHELESS MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE AND WE  
SHALL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE REFORMS CAREFULLY BETWEEN NOW AND  
1991. BY THAT TIME WE SHALL EXPECT TO SEE THAT:

THE PROMISED CHANGES IN SOVIET CRIMINAL LEGISLATION HAVE BEEN  
IMPLEMENTED, INCLUDING ABOLITION OR AMENDMENT OF THE +POLITICAL  
AND RELIGIOUS+ ARTICLES:

THERE ARE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEES OF FREE SPEECH, FREEDOM OF  
RELIGION, FREEDOM TO EMIGRATE, AS WELL AS OF GENUINE JUDICIAL  
INDEPENDENCE:

PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER IMPRISONED (INCLUDING IN PSYCHIATRIC  
WARDS) FOR THEIR POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS:

THERE ARE NO REMAINING LONG-TERM REFUSENIKS WHO ARE DENIED  
THEIR RIGHT TO EMIGRATE:

THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE IS HELD UNDER EXACTLY THE SAME CONDITIONS  
AS THE CSCE MEETINGS IN THE WEST.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES IMPLEMENTING THE  
ASSURANCES WHICH THEY HAVE GIVEN ON THESE POINTS, ON WHICH OUR  
PARTICIPATION IN THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE WILL DEPEND.

AS AGREED, WE WILL ISSUE THIS AT 1730 HRS LONDON TIME,  
TOMORROW 4 JANUARY.

WARM REGARDS

CHARLES