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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

28 January 1989

MR. GORBACHEV'S VISIT

Mr. Kossov of the Soviet Embassy telephoned me this morning to say that the Soviet authorities could now agree to make the preliminary announcement of Mr. Gorbachev's forthcoming visit on 30 January. It would be carried in the Moscow Evening News at 1800 our time. The text would read approximately as follows:

"It has been agreed that the official visit of Mr. Gorbachev to the United Kingdom, earlier planned to take place in December 1988, will now take place in early April."

I said that we would make an announcement from No. 10 in similar terms in time for the evening news and the following day's papers. I see no harm in saying, in background, that the planned dates are 5-7 April.

I am copying this letter to Bill Heseltine at the Palace.

(C. D. POWELL)

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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