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*From the Private Secretary*

4 April 1989

MR. GORBACHEV'S VISIT

The Taoiseach telephoned the Prime Minister this morning about his own meeting with President Gorbachev on 2 April. He added very little to what is reported in Dublin telegram number 318. Mr. Gorbachev had complained that the West was dragging its feet on disarmament. He had accused NATO of concentrating too much on SNF modernisation. He had expressed the Soviet Union's wish to draw closer to the European Community and accepted that his concept of the common European home should have a place for the United States and Canada. He had demonstrated a sensitive approach to Northern Ireland, expressing the sympathetic interest of an outsider. The Taoiseach added that all this had been in very general terms.

The Prime Minister thanked the Taoiseach for taking the trouble to inform her of this personally. It was helpful to be forewarned.

The conversation ended with the Taoiseach congratulating the Prime Minister on her imminent completion of ten years in office.

I am copying this letter to Stephen Leach (Northern Ireland Office).

(CHARLES POWELL)

J.S. Wall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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