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PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, TO CHARLES POWELL, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

DEAR CHARLES:

BEFORE GORBACHEV ARRIVES IN THE UK, AND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESIDENTS RECENT LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE PRESIDENT WANTED THE PRIME MINISTER TO KNOW THAT COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT OSCAR ARIAS EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR U.S. POLICY TOWARD NICARAGUA IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT ON APRIL 4. PRESIDENT ARIAS PLEDGED TO WORK WITH US IN CLOSELY MONITORING NICARAGUAN PERFORMANCE ON DEMOCRATIZATION. HE ALSO GAVE THE BIPARTISAN ACCORD STRONG PUBLIC BACKING, HERALDING THE +NEW ENVIRONMENT, NEW ATMOSPHERE+ IN WASHINGTON. HE SURSEQUENTLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ACCORD AND THE CENTRAL AMERICAN SUMMIT AGREEMENT IN EL SALVADOR AND THAT U.S. HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE RESISTANCE IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THAT AGREEMENT. BOTH IN HIS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS, ARIAS REJECTED THE INTERPRETATION THAT THE RESISTANCE SHOULD DEMOBILIZE BY MAY 15, SAYING THAT REINTEGRATION SHOULD GO HAND IN HAND WITH NICARAGUAN DEMOCRATIZATION.

PRESIDENT ARIAS WAS BRIEFED ON OUR LETTER TO GORBACHEV ON CENTRAL AMERICA, WITH WHICH HE AGREED. WHEN OUR MESSAGE TO GORBACHEV WAS PUBLICIZED LAST WEEK IN SAN JOSE, ARIAS HAD PUBLICLY CALLED FOR AN END OF SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA AND THE SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS -- AS HE HAD EARLIER IN HIS OWN LETTER TO GORBACHEV. FOLLOWING THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING, ARIAS PUBLICLY ECHOED THIS THEME AGAIN. ASKED WHAT MESSAGE HE WOULD SEND TO GORBACHEV, HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET LEADER SHOULD BE +CONSISTENT WITH WHAT HE WROTE IN HIS BOOK PERESTROIKA. IF HE SUPPORTS SINCERELY THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PLAN, HE HAS TO PERSUADE FIDEL CASTRO NOT TO KEEP ON SUPPORTING THE GUERRILLAS IN EL SALVADOR.+

ON ANOTHER MATTER, THE PRESIDENT WANTED YOU TO STRESS TO GORBACHEV ON HIS BEHALF OUR CONCERN THAT THE PEACE SETTLEMENT IN SOUTHWESTERN AFRICA IS SEVERELY THREATENED BY THE INFILTRATION INTO NAMIBIA OF HEAVILY ARMED SWAPO UNITS. HE HOPES THE PRIME MINISTER CAN IMPRESS UPON GORBACHEV THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE SWAPO THAT ITS ONGOING INFILTRATION, IN CONTRAVENTION OF ITS OWN COMMITMENT TO THE UN TO ABIDE BY THE GENEVA PROTOCOL, MUST STOP IMMEDIATELY. GORBACHEV SHOULD ALSO IMPRESS ON THE CUBANS THE RESPONSIBILITY THEY BEAR FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE AGREEMENTS.

MAY I SIMPLY REITERATE THAT THE PRESIDENT HOPES THE PRIME MINISTER CAN MAKE THESE POINTS IN HER CONVERSATION WITH GORBACHEV.

WARM REGARDS,
BRENT SCOWCROFT

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From the Private Secretary

6 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR. GORBACHEV

I enclose a copy of a message which I have received this morning from Brent Scowcroft, suggesting some additional points which the Prime Minister might raise with Mr. Gorbachev when they meet this morning, concerning Central America and Namibia.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

(C. D. POWELL)

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

SECRET