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CEILINGS
atc

13 September 1989

From the Private Secretary

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION: CEILINGS

The Prime Minister discussed briefly with Sir Rodric Braithwaite this evening how she should handle the question of ceilings on Embassy staff in her meetings with Mr. Gorbachev.

The Prime Minister agreed that the matter would have to be raised, but any attempt to go into detail should be avoided. The aim should be agreement to instruct Foreign Ministers and officials to sort out the problem on a reasonable and reciprocal basis. It might be helpful to have a very brief note, which the Prime Minister could hand to Mr. Gorbachev, setting out objectively the numbers of Embassy staff and others in London and Moscow respectively.

I imagine that you will be covering this in your briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

C. D. POWELL

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