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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 September 1989

*Already seen.  
CDP 1574*

*Dear Charles,*

Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Gorbachev

If you have not already seen it, you may be interested in the enclosed report

It is difficult to see how Mrs Biryukova can have drawn her inference about Mr Gorbachev's lack of control from her meeting with the Prime Minister. In his present difficult situation, it is not surprising that Mr Gorbachev may be on the lookout for possible intrigues. Ryzhkov would feature prominently in anyone's list of possible successors. But we have no indications of any manoeuvrings on his part or indeed anyone else's.

If Mr Gorbachev is indeed looking for some reassurance, it makes the Prime Minister's visit even more timely.

*Yours,  
Stephe Wall*

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Private Secretary

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