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RESTRICTED
FM MOSCOW
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1610
OF 191416Z SEPTEMBER 89
INFO IMMEDIATE TOKYO

TOKYO FOR PM'S PARTY.

FCO TELNO 1238: VISIT OF SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION

1. THE QUESTION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION CAME UP WHEN PRIMAKOV MET MRS THATCHER DURING HER TECHNICAL STOP ON 18 SEPTEMBER. PRIMAKOV CONFIRMED TO ME THAT THE VISIT WOULD GO AHEAD IN DECEMBER. HE HIMSELF WOULD NOT BE FREE TO LEAD IT BUT THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION WOULD BE A VERY SENIOR SOVIET FIGURE.

2. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE HEAD OF SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT IN THE MFA EARLIER ON 18 SEPTEMBER I HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE VISIT. WE BOTH AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR POLITICAL BILATERAL EVENT AND THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE FOR THE DELEGATION TO BE HEADED BY A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. USPENSKY DID NOT DISSENT WHEN I SUGGESTED THAT A POTENTIAL HEAD OF THE DELEGATION MIGHT BE VICE-PRESIDENT LUKYANOV, WHO IS GORBACHEV'S DEPUTY WITHIN THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM AND IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO BE PROMOTED TO FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLITBURO SOON. IF THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN BRIEFED TO RAISE THE VISIT WITH GORBACHEV, SHE MIGHT WISH TO SUGGEST LUKYANOV'S NAME TO HIM.

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