

UNCLASSIFIED  
FM MOSCOW  
TO DESKBY 181500Z FCO  
TELNO 2118  
OF 181244Z DECEMBER 89  
AND TO DESKBY 181500Z UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL NATO

SHEVARDNADZE'S VISIT TO UK: INTERVIEW IN IZVESTIYA

1. IZVESTIYA OF 17 DECEMBER PRINTED AN INTERVIEW WITH SHEVARDNADZE CONDUCTED BY A TASS CORRESPONDENT. MOST OF THE INTERVIEW WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSING SHEVRADNADZE'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS, BUT HHS CONCLUDING REMARKS LOOKED FORWARD TO HIS VISIT TO THE UK.

2. ASKED WHY HE HAD UNEXPECTEDLY ADDED UK TO HIS ITINERARY, SHEVARDNADZE REPLIED: 'POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS HAVE NOW BECOME MUCH LIVELIER THAN A FEW YEARS AGO. CURRENT DEMANDS AND A NEW LEVEL OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING HAVE MADE THIS NECESSARY. OUR DIALOGUE WITH GREAT BRITAIN HAS A HIGHLY DYNAMIC AND CLOSE CHARACTER. THE MEETINGS BETWEEN MR GORBACHEV AND MRS THATCHER HAVE A SPECIAL ROLE IN THIS. THE REASONS FOR THIS ARE NOT DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN. BRITAIN'S ROLE IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD IS WELL KNOWN. I WILL POINT OUT ONLY THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND GREAT BRITAIN, TOGETHER WITH THE USA AND FRANCE, BEAR A PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN EUROPE AS A RESULT OF THE QUADRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS DURING THE WAR AND POST-WAR PERIODS. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO FULL AND CONSTRUCTIVE TALKS WITH MRS THATCHER, AND ALSO TO ESTABLISHING GOOD BUSINESSLIKE COTACTS WITH MY COLLEAGUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR HURD. I AM SPEAKING ABOUT THIS WITH CONFIDENCE BECAUSE THE SPHERE IN WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE TAKING A COMMON APPROACH TO WORLD AFFAIRS HAS WIDENED APPRECIABLY IN RECENT YEARS'.

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