

CONFIDENTIAL (DISTRIBUTION AMENDED 16TH MAY)
FM MOSCOW
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 879
OF 151258Z MAY 90
AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

1. THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS ARE DUE TO MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT LATER TODAY GIVING DETAILS OF PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS WILL STATE THAT GORBACHEV IS TO HAVE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON WITH PRESIDENT BUSH ON 31 MAY AND 1 JUNE, AND THAT ON SATURDAY 2 JUNE THE 2 PRESIDENTS WILL GO TO CAMP DAVID ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY THEIR WIVES FOR PRIVATE AND INFORMAL CONVERSATION.

2. GORBACHEV WILL LEAVE WASHINGTON ON SUNDAY 3 JUNE. UNDER US PROTOCOL, THIS WILL CONCLUDE THE OFFICIAL PART OF HIS VISIT. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT GORBACHEV HAS INSISTED ON ADDING ONE DAY TO THE VISIT, SO THAT HE CAN VISIT MINNEAPOLIS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND FLY TO SAN FRANCISCO ON SUNDAY EVENING. HE WILL GIVE A SPEECH IN SAN FRANCISCO ON MONDAY 4 JUNE AND WILL THEN LEAVE THE UNITED STATES FOR KAMCHATKA. SOME FRICTION HAS ARISEN BETWEEN THE 2 SIDES OVER THE STATUS OF THE LATTER PART OF GORBACHEV'S TOUR. THE RUSSIANS ARE SENSITIVE ABOUT THE IDEA THAT THE VISITS TO MINNEAPOLIS AND SAN FRANCISCO (FOR WHICH ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN THE US GOVERNMENT) SHOULD BE REGARDED AS PRIVATE OR UNOFFICIAL: AND THEY HAVE PRESSED THE AMERICANS TO COME FORWARD WITH SOME FORM OF "INVITATION" TO THESE 2 CITIES. BECAUSE OF THESE PROTOCOL WRINKLES, IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT WILL REFER TO MINNEAPOLIS AND SAN FRANCISCO.

3. BY RETURNING VIA THE PACIFIC ROUTE, GORBACHEV WILL FURTHER EXTEND HIS TIME AWAY FROM MOSCOW. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR DOUBTS WHETHER HE WILL BE BACK IN MOSCOW BEFORE 6 JUNE, WHICH IS THE DAY BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S ARRIVAL

BRAITHWAITE

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