

SECRET

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MDHIAN 0626

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*R/ce immediate Mr Powell*

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*We spoke*

*X back please*

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SECRET

FM MOSCOW

AMENDED DISTRIBUTION - 151815Z

TO DESKBY 151200Z FCO

TELNO 874

OF 151055Z MAY 90

PERSONAL FOR HEAD OF SOVIET DEPARTMENT

YOUR TELNO 824: POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND SOVIET MILITARY LEADERS

1. I SOUNDED CHERNYAYEV IN MY BILATERAL MEETING WITH HIM ON 14 MAY FOLLOWING THE JOINT DEMARCHE WITH THE US AMBASSADOR.

2. CHERNYAYEV TELEPHONED ON THE MORNING OF 15 MAY TO SAY THAT HE HAD CONSULTED BOTH GORBACHEV AND YAZOV. GORBACHEV "HAD NO OBJECTION" TO THE IDEA. NOR DID YAZOV. LYNE ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT GORBACHEV WAS FIRMLY IN FAVOUR, AS I HAD TOLD CHERNYAYEV THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD ONLY WISH TO MEET MILITARY LEADERS IF GORBACHEV CONSIDERED THIS USEFUL. CHERNYAYEV ASSENTED: THE MEETING HAD GORBACHEV'S SUPPORT, AND YAZOV'S APPROVAL. WE SHOULD NOW FIX THE DETAILS THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. AS SOON AS WE HAVE YOUR CONFIRMED INSTRUCTIONS, AND AN INDICATION OF HOW YOU WOULD LIKE THIS TO FIT INTO THE PROGRAMME IN FCO TELNO 846, WE SHALL APPROACH THE MFA AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE. COULD YOU GIVE US FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THE LENGTH AND FORMAT OF THE MEETING, AND THE SORT OF MILITARY LEADERS WHOM THE PRIME MINISTER HOPES TO MEET?

4. GRATEFUL IF WE COULD RECEIVE YOUR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS BY 171300Z SO THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE CAN BE BRIEFED BEFORE HIS FINAL MEETING WITH MARSHAL YAZOV. MR KING WILL OBVIOUSLY WISH TO DISCUSS THE MEETING IN GENERAL TERMS WITH HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART.

BRAITHWAITE

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