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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

5 June 1990

Just tells us what you had already decided

Dear Charles,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW: YELTSIN

We have considered whether the Prime Minister might ask for a meeting with Boris Yeltsin during her visit to Moscow.

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Sir Rodric Braithwaite's view, with which the Foreign Secretary agrees is that Mr Yeltsin's election is a serious blow for President Gorbachev. President Gorbachev would be likely to regard a request for a meeting at this early stage as hedging our bets in public, and be extremely sensitive about it. On the other hand, if the Prime Minister does not ask to see Mr Yeltsin, we do not judge there to be a risk of snubbing him. The Prime Minister recently received him and has sent a congratulatory message on his election. It is not normal to include a call on the Chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. The Foreign Secretary therefore recommends that the Prime Minister stick to her present programme.

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If Mr Yeltsin asked for a call on the Prime Minister it would be proper for us to consult the Soviet Government, as the Prime Minister's hosts, but on the basis that the Prime Minister would wish to receive him unless they saw serious objection.

*Yours,
Stephen Wall*

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

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