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FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1405
OF 132306Z JUNE 90
INFO PRIORITY MODUK, MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO

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MOSCOW TELNO. 1097: **NON-CIRCUMVENTION**

1. WHEN I SAW EAGLEBURGER ON 13 JUNE I TOLD HIM GORBACHEV'S REMARKS ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION WERE NOT JUST UNHELPFUL BUT INACCURATE. HE DID NOT ADDRESS THE ISSUE WHEN SPEAKING TO THE PRIME MINISTER BEYOND REFERRING TO AN ALLEGED UNDERSTANDING THAT THE BRITISH AND FRENCH DETERRENTS WOULD COME INTO QUESTION FOLLOWING 50 PER CENT REDUCTIONS IN START. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD LEFT HIM IN NO DOUBT OF OUR DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN OUR CAPABILITY. EAGLEBURGER SAID IT HAD BEEN HARD TO JUDGE FROM THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT WHETHER GORBACHEV WAS SERIOUS ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION. IN ANY CASE, WE COULD BE SURE THAT THIS WAS NOT AN ISSUE THE AMERICANS WOULD BE NEGOTIATING ON WITH THE RUSSIANS.

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PAGE 1
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