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10 DOWNING STREET . . .

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

31 August 1990

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR THE SOVIET UNION

The Soviet Ambassador has asked to come and see the Prime Minister next week to talk about economic assistance for the Soviet Union. He stressed that he had nothing new to say himself. But the situation was increasingly desperate and he would like to be able to offer Moscow some comfort about our thinking. I said that there was no way the Prime Minister could see him next week because of the recall of Parliament. Moreover, I did not think we had anything very new to say at this stage. But I would consult.

I mentioned this to the Prime Minister, who said she was always ready to see the Soviet Ambassador and could, in principle, do so the week after next. But it would only be worthwhile if we have something substantial to say to him. I should be grateful for advice.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve (H.M. Treasury), Martin Stanley (Department of Trade and Industry) and Eamonn Taylor (Overseas Development Administration).

C. D. POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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