

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 October 1989

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a: / Gor 6
celc*

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MR. GORBACHEV TO THE PRIME MINISTER

I attach a message from Mr. Gorbachev to the Prime Minister which the Soviet Ambassador delivered to Downing Street yesterday evening. This has already been sent to the Prime Minister, and I understand Charles Powell has also shown it to the Foreign Secretary. I understand from the party in Malaysia that no need is seen for any further action at this stage.

The Soviet Ambassador was at pains to stress the confidential nature of the message, and I should be grateful if you would ensure that it is therefore handled on a restricted basis.

PAUL GRAY

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET

SECRET AND PERSONAL

MR. GRAY

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MESSAGE FROM MR. GORBACHEV

Thank you for sending this. I have shown it to the Foreign Secretary and will send a copy to his office here. I would be grateful if you would also copy it to the FCO. I do not see any need for further action at this stage.

e d ?

(C. D. POWELL)

19 October 1989

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Germany
Lnt Jt.

Dist.

Pls/PM

Ps/PM

MR INGHAM

Duty clerk

Pls/ S of S.

APs/ S of S.

MISS McGinty.

ZCZC

LNUZAN 0271 OVMIDN 2870

CONFIDENTIAL

DD 182330Z CHOGM

FM FCOLN TO CHOGM

182053Z OCT

GRS 347

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO

TO DESKBY 182330Z UKDEL KUALA LUMPUR

TELNO 55

OF 182053Z OCTOBER 89

((FOR PS/PM (PS/S OF S)

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU AT REQUEST OF PRIVATE OFFICE
WAS RECEIVED FROM EAST BERLIN TELEGRAM NUMBER 318 OF 18 OCTOBER.

BEGINS:

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, BMG BERLIN, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO
INFO PRIORITY PARIS, PRAGUE, WARSAW
INFO ROUTINE OTHER EAST EUROPEAN POSTS, UKREP BRUSSELS
INFO SAVING PEKING

TELECON WEEKS/WORDSWORTH (WED) : GDR LEADERSHIP CHANGE

SUMMARY

1. HONECKER, STEPS DOWN FROM ALL THREE OF HIS JOBS. KRENZ
REPLACES HIM. NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER OTHER LEADERSHIP CHANGES
WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

DETAIL

2. RUMOURS BEGAN CIRCULATING THIS MORNING WITH THE ARRIVAL
IN EAST BERLIN OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS FROM THE PROVINCES
THAT A SPECIAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING WAS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE.
THESE RUMOURS WERE GIVEN FURTHER SUBSTANCE BY INFORMAL REMARKS
MADE BY A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY THAT THEY "HOPED" THAT
"CHANGES" WOULD BE ANNOUNCED.

MR POWELL

MESSAGE FROM MR GORBACHEV

Earlier this evening our time I had a call from your friend Mr Kossov who said he had an urgent message from Mr Gorbachev to the Prime Minister. Thirty minutes later the Soviet Ambassador and Mr Kossov came to No.10 with it. I took delivery and undertook that it would be got to the Prime Minister as soon as possible, and that we would respect its "strictly confidential" nature.

It is now attached. You will see it related to the replacement of Mr Honnecker, which we reported earlier in the day.

I assume you will show it to the Foreign Secretary as well as to the Prime Minister, and will advise on the terms of the reply the Prime Minister wishes to send.

Unless you advise to the contrary, I will send a copy to the Foreign Office first thing Thursday morning our time, asking for it to be handled on a restricted basis.

Does the Prime Minister want any further action, e.g. to notify the Americans of the message, to be undertaken?

RG6.

Paul Gray

18 October 1989

SECRET AND PERSONAL

MJ a:GOR

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 1186/89

Strictly Confidential

SUBJECT CC OPS
MASTER

Personal Message from M.S. Gorbachev to M. Thatcher

M.S. Gorbachev instructed the Soviet Ambassador to inform the Prime-Minister of the following:

The Plenary meeting of the Socialist United Party of Germany's Central Committee has just finished its work in Berlin. Mr. E. Krenz has been elected to the post of the General Secretary to replace Mr. Honnecker.

We view these events as an internal affair of the GDR. The conditions have ripened within the Socialist United Party of Germany itself.

We are sufficiently certain, that the new GDR leadership will aim its course to the improvement and renewal of society while safeguarding those achievements, which are really existing. Undoubtedly, one can expect a steady, step by step, movement towards reform.

Well recollecting the recent talk in Moscow with M. Thatcher, including that part, which was off the record, M.S. Gorbachev would like to emphasise, that new leadership of GDR adheres to the interests of stability of two German states, all the principles and provisions of the Helsinki all-European process, the ideas of perestroika.

We hope that this confidential message will widen the scope of mutual understanding, worked out at Soviet-British summit meetings.