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FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELNO 299
OF 261430Z FEBRUARY 87
INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW

PROPOSED UK/USSR AGREEMENT ON CO-OPERATION IN THE STUDY AND
EXPLORATION OF SPACE

1. THE PRIME MINISTER IS CONTENT FOR US TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE WITH
THE SOVIET UNION A SPACE CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT AND AN AGREEMENT
TO UPGRADE THE UK/SOVIET HOT LINE, AND ALSO TO TABLE A MEMORANDUM
OF UNDERSTANDING ON INFORMATION AND CULTURE. PROVIDED WE CAN
REACH SATISFACTORY TEXTS, SHE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEE ALL THREE
AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING HER FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW.

2. AS WITH THE BNSC/USSR INSTITUTE OF SPACE RESEARCH AGREED
MINUTE OF 1 OCTOBER (WASHINGTON TELNO 2352 OF 1986), WE SHOULD
LIKE TO INFORM THE AMERICANS OF OUR INTENTIONS IN ADVANCE. WE
ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO US SUSPICION
THAT CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WOULD BE COMPROMISED, OR THAT THERE
WOULD BE ANY UNAUTHORISED TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. TIME IS SHORT.
WE ARE COMPLETING WORK ON A UK COUNTER-DRAFT, AND THE SOVIET
EMBASSY IN LONDON HAVE PROPOSED A ROUND OF TALKS IN MOSCOW WHICH
IS LIKELY TO BE ON 12-13 MARCH.

3. PLEASE THEREFORE SPEAK TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE, DRAWING AS NECESSARY ON THE FOLLOWING:

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- WISH TO INFORM THEM IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT, DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, IT IS INTENDED TO SIGN AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON SPACE SCIENCE CO-OPERATION, PROVIDED A SATISFACTORY TEXT CAN BE NEGOTIATED.
- IT WILL NOT BE SIGNED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, BUT PROBABLY BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY.
- THIS WAS A SOVIET PROPOSAL, WHICH WE HAVE ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE.
- THE SUBSTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT WILL CONTAIN NOTHING NEW. THE DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE RUSSIANS SUGGESTED EXACTLY THE SAME AREAS OF COLLABORATION AS THOSE IN THE BNSC/IKI AGREED MINUTE OF 1 OCTOBER (SOLAR TERRESTRIAL PHYSICS, PLANETARY SCIENCES, HIGH ENERGY ASTROPHYSICS INCLUDING X-RAY ULTRAVIOLET AND EXTREME ULTRAVIOLET, SUB-MILLIMETRE AND FAR INFRA-RED ASTRONOMY, RADIO ASTRONOMY, MATERIALS SCIENCE, SPACE BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE), ON WHICH THE EMBASSY BRIEFED STATE DEPARTMENT LAST SEPTEMBER.
- THE SOVIET DRAFT IS THEREFORE BROADLY SATISFACTORY, BUT WE SHALL WISH TO REMOVE CERTAIN REFERENCES TO QUOTE PEACEFUL PURPOSES UNQUOTE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW. WE SHALL ALSO WISH TO INTRODUCE GREATER PRECISION INTO THE LIST OF POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES, AND TO CLARIFY THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.
- THE DRAFT BEARS A STRONG RESEMBLANCE TO THE US/SOVIET AGREEMENT (WASHINGTON TELNOS 2392 AND 2837 OF 1986). IT ENVISAGES ONLY SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION.
- WE INTEND TO PROPOSE A CLAUSE (ALREADY IN THE AGREED MINUTE) TO THE EFFECT THAT CO-OPERATION WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, EACH CO-OPERATIVE PROJECT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT ON THE BASIS OF ITS

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OWN NEGOTIATED PROTOCOL, WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR MAXIMUM CONTROL.

4. IF ASKED WHY THE UK NOW WANTS TO CONCLUDE AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT NOT EXTENDING BEYOND THE AREAS COVERED IN THE OCTOBER BNSC/IKI AGREED MINUTE, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE HAVE CONCLUDED FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THIS WOULD BENEFIT THE UK IN TERMS OF CLEARANCE OF ACTIVITIES BY THE SOVIET BUREAUCRACY, BETTER ACCESS TO RELEVANT SOVIET PERSONNEL, AND HIGHER PRIORITY FOR SOVIET FUNDING TO OUR SCIENTIFIC COUNTERPARTS.

5. GRATEFUL FOR EARLY REPORT OF STATE DEPARTMENT REACTION.

6. THE MCD WISH TO BE ASSURED THAT THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WOULD NOT HAVE ANY ADVERSE EFFECT ON UK/US DEFENCE CO-OPERATION. THEY ARE TELEGRAPHING SEPARATELY TO HEAD OF CHANCERY AND DEFENCE STAFF FOR ADVICE ON THIS POINT. YOU WILL WISH TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE APPROACHING STATE DEPARTMENT.

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Limited

ESSD	Mr	Gillmore
SOVIET DEPT	Mr	Boyd
DEFENCE DEPT	Mr	Thomas
ACDD	Mr	Beathwhite
NAD	Mr	Falk
Ps	Mr	Ratford
Ps Mr RENTON	Mr	SLATER
Ps Mr EGAN		
Ps PJS		

REAR ADMIRAL J SLATER
ACDS(POL/NUC), MOD
MR R GIBSON, BNSC
MR A J P MCDONALD, DTI
MR D TANNER, SCIENCE
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