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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 651 OF 6 MAY

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 784/85

MIPT : SOVIET COMMEMORATION OF VE DAY : MESSAGES

1. FOLLOWING IS AGREED ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF MESSAGE FROM MR GORBACHEV TO THE PRIME MINISTER HANDED TO MY HEAD OF CHANCERY TODAY, 6 MAY.

BEGINS

HER EXCELLENCY
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MRS. MARGARET THATCHER, M.P.
PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN

DEAR MADAM PRIME MINISTER

ON THIS DAY OF THE MEMORABLE JUBILEE -- THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT VICTORY OVER HITLERITE FASCISM IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR -- THE COMRADESHIP-IN ARMS OF THE STATES OF THE ANTI-HITLERITE COALITION, IN WHICH BOTH OUR COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED, IS WARMLY RECALLED IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE SOVIET PEOPLE, WHO EXERTED GIGANTIC EFFORTS AND MADE HUGE SACRIFICES FOR THE SAKE OF DELIVERING MANKIND FROM FASCIST TYRANNY, HARBOURS FEELINGS OF RESPECT FOR THE GALLANTRY OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE WHO MADE A SIZEABLE CONTRIBUTION TO ACHIEVING THE VICTORY.

PEACE HAS BEEN REIGNING ON EUROPEAN SOIL FOR FORTY YEARS. PROCEEDING FROM THE EXISTING POST-WAR TERRITORIAL-POLITICAL REALITIES IN EUROPE IT IS IMPORTANT TO GO ON PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATIONS OF SECURITY, PEACE AND COOPERATION ON THE CONTINENT AS LAID DOWN IN THE DECISIONS OF THE CRIMEA AND POTSDAM CONFERENCES AND CONFIRMED IN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

THE EXPERIENCE WHICH THE PEOPLES OF OUR COUNTRIES LIVED THROUGH SHOWS THAT WAR SHOULD BE FOUGHT AGAINST BEFORE IT BREAKS OUT. WHAT IS IMPERATIVE TO AVERT A NEW WORLD WAR IS A CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLES, CONSISTENT EFFORTS BY ALL STATES AIMED AT STOPPING A DANGEROUS BUILD-UP OF NUCLEAR ARMS, PREVENTING THE MILITARIZATION OF SPACE, AND REMOVING THE MILITARY THREAT HANGING OVER THE WORLD. THE SOVIET UNION IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH GREAT BRITAIN -- ITS FORMER ALLY IN THE ANTI-HITLERITE COALITION -- IN ACHIEVING THESE NOBLE GOALS.

ON THIS MOMENTOUS DAY PLEASE ACCEPT, MADAM PRIME-MINISTER, SINCERE WISHES OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

M. GORBACHOV

MOSCOW, THE KREMLIN,
MAY 7, 1985

SUTHERLAND



File 46

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 May 1985

40th ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY:
MESSAGE FROM MR. GORBACHEV

Thank you for your letter of 23 May enclosing the original of the 40th Anniversary VE Day message from Mr. Gorbachev. I return it herewith - and shall watch my flourish in future.

CHARLES POWELL

Len Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

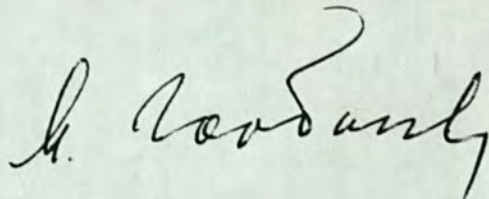
Уважаемая госпожа Премьер-Министр,

В день знаменательного юбилея - 40-летия Великой Победы над гитлеровским фашизмом во второй мировой войне в Советском Союзе тепло вспоминают о боевом содружестве государств антигитлеровской коалиции, участниками которой были наши страны. Советский народ, который приложил гигантские усилия и принес огромные жертвы во имя спасения человечества от фашистской тирании, с уважением относится к мужеству британского народа, внесшего немалый вклад в достижение победы.

Сорок лет на европейской земле царит мир. Исходя из сложившихся послевоенных территориально-политических реальностей в Европе, важно и впредь сохранять и крепить основы безопасности, мира и сотрудничества на континенте, как они определены в решениях Крымской и Потсдамской конференций, подтверждены в хельсинкском Заключительном акте.

Опыт пережитого народами наших стран говорит о том, что против войны нужно бороться, пока она не началась. Чтобы предотвратить новую мировую войну, настоятельно необходимы климат доверия и взаимопонимания между народами, последовательные усилия всех государств с целью остановить опасное наращивание ядерных вооружений, не допустить милитаризации космоса, отвести нависшую над миром военную угрозу. Советский Союз готов сотрудничать со своим бывшим союзником по антигитлеровской коалиции - Великобританией в достижении этих благородных целей.

Примите, госпожа Премьер-Министр, в этот памятный день искренние пожелания мира и процветания народу Великобритании.



М. ГОРБАЧЕВ

Москва, Кремль

7 мая 1985 года

Ее Превосходительству
Маргарет Тэтчер,
Премьер-Министру Великобритании
г. Лондон

CDP (4)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*And the hand-written
good wishes
MB*

23 May 1985

Prime Minister

*We shall have
to remember that they
will be studying the
flourish on your signature!
CDP
23/5*

Dear Charles,

40th Anniversary of VE Day: Message from Mr Gorbachev

The Soviet Embassy have handed to us the top signed copy of Mr Gorbachev's letter to the Prime Minister on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary. It is identical with the text passed to us on 6 May, and forwarded to you under cover of my letter of 7 May.

There is only one point which our Soviet specialists have made in examining the letter in its final form: it confirms that Mr Gorbachev addressed the Prime Minister as 'Dear Mrs Thatcher' and the address includes the phrase 'Her Excellency'. Neither of these formulations was used in the previous message from a Soviet General Secretary to the Prime Minister, that from Mr Andropov in November 1983. Mr Gorbachev has therefore intended to communicate a slightly friendlier tone. But the point is not of great significance.

I am enclosing the top copy of the letter. I should be grateful if you would return it to us, keeping a photocopy for your records if you wish, so that our Research Department may have it to hand, particularly as regards the studying of the evolution of Mr Gorbachev's signature (which has notably more of a flourish to it than those of either of his two predecessors).

Yours ever,

L V Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street