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 FM MOSCOW
 TO DESKBY 131630Z F C O
 TELNO 737
 OF 131550Z JUNE 86

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MY TELNO 735

SHEVARDNADZE'S VISIT TO LONDON

1. WHEN I CALLED ON SHEVARDNADZE ON 13 JUNE TO HAND OVER THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO GORBACHEV'S MESSAGE ABOUT CHERNOBYL, SHEVARDNADZE TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN RAISING THE SUBJECT OF FUTURE BILATERAL EXCHANGES. REFERRING TO MURAKHOVSKY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT, SHEVARDNADZE SAID THAT IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT IN ADDITION TO HIS AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS, MURAKHOVSKY WAS BOTH A DEPUTY OF THE SUPREME SOVIET AND ALSO A MEMBER OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP; HIS MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD THEREFORE BE OF PARTICULAR VALUE. (SHEVARDNADZE WAS CLEARLY CONVEYING THE HOPE THAT MURAKHOVSKY WOULD BE RECEIVED AT A SUITABLY SENIOR POLITICAL LEVEL).

2. SHEVARDNADZE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED ON THE PREVIOUS DAY THAT HE SHOULD ACCEPT THE DATES OFFERED BY THE BRITISH SIDE FOR HIS OWN VISIT TO LONDON, NAMELY 14/15 JULY. IF IT WOULD CREATE NO DIFFICULTY HE WOULD LIKE TO ARRIVE IN LONDON ON SUNDAY, 13 JULY AND RETURN TO MOSCOW ON 16 JULY. I SAID THAT I WAS SURE THAT THIS NEWS WOULD BE VERY WELL RECEIVED IN LONDON. I HOPED THAT HE WOULD LET US KNOW SOON OF ANY PARTICULAR WISHES HE MIGHT HAVE REGARDING HIS PROGRAMME. I ASKED IF MRS SHEVARDNADZE WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM, TO WHICH HE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS STILL THE SUBJECT OF A DIFFERENT NEGOTIATION.

3. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR VERY EARLY CONFIRMATION THAT THE PROPOSED TIMING IS STILL ACCEPTABLE AND FOR ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANY PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH MAY BE MADE IN LONDON ABOUT THE VISIT.

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