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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 March 1987

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Dear Charles,

Briefing for NATO and EC Partners  
on the Prime Minister's Visit to Moscow

The Prime Minister may wish to know our proposed arrangements for briefing NATO allies and EC partners on her forthcoming visit.

EC

The Foreign Secretary briefed Foreign Ministers of the Twelve at the Foreign Affairs Council on 16 March. The Prime Minister will be discussing the visit with President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl on 23 March, after which we will speak to the Italian Ambassador. Sir Geoffrey has offered to brief Community Ambassadors in Moscow towards the end of the visit. He will be able to brief EC colleagues in greater depth at the informal EPC Ministerial weekend on 4-5 April.

US

The Prime Minister has indicated that she proposes to send a message to President Reagan before leaving for Moscow. We suggest that this should be sent after her meetings with President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl so that it can reflect her European consultations. This suggests sending it on about 25 March.

Afterwards, Sir Geoffrey's visit to Washington on 9 April will be the opportunity to give Shultz a full briefing before his own visit to Moscow, now scheduled for 13-16 April. The Prime Minister may wish to send President Reagan a quicker reaction immediately on leaving Moscow.

NATO

Michael Alexander will be briefing NATO as soon as possible after the end of the visit.

Yours ever,  
L Parker

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