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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. TB1/87

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 April 1987

Dear Mr. Gorbachev.

I want to let you know straight away that I reported to Cabinet this morning on my visit to the Soviet Union. Cabinet warmly welcomed the visit as a positive and constructive step forward in our relations with the Soviet Union, which we would follow up in future.

As you will know from our discussions, this very closely reflects my own views and wishes, and I am delighted that my colleagues have so readily endorsed them. I shall be reporting to Parliament this afternoon and shall ensure that the Soviet Embassy receive a copy of my statement.

I found my visit an exhilarating experience and I am most grateful to you personally for your great kindness in devoting so much time to it. We both enjoy frank speaking, and I am sure that this is the best way to reach a better understanding. I was pleased to be able to confirm to you personally our welcome for your policies of open-ness, restructuring and democratisation. We do most sincerely wish you well in them. They point the way to the greater trust and confidence which we both want to see. Obviously there are many matters on which we think very differently and shall continue to do so. But if we can discuss them in the same frank spirit as during my visit, our relations will prosper and become more friendly.

JKW

May I thank you particularly, among all the many aspects of my interesting and rewarding programme, for the delightful and informal supper party on 31 March; and for allowing me so many opportunities to meet and speak to the Soviet people. I was deeply touched by the spontaneous warmth of their welcome, both in Moscow and in Tbilisi.

I hope very much that you will pay us an official visit before long. Meanwhile, I shall be considering with my colleagues how we can best follow up in practical ways the commitment which we both made to further co-operation between our countries. I hope that we can continue to communicate directly with each other on matters of concern to us both.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Mr. M. S. Gorbachev



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

2 April 1987

**PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION:
LETTER TO MR. GORBACHEV**

The Prime Minister has signed the enclosed letter of thanks to Mr. Gorbachev which she would like telegraphed flash to Moscow for delivery today if at all possible. Subject to any views which the Foreign Secretary may have, if he is available to look at it immediately, I should be grateful if this could be done.

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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