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TELNO 1613  
OF 090830Z NOVEMBER 87.

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YOUR TELNO 1104: PRIME MINISTER'S ORAL MESSAGE TO GORBACHEV

1. I SPOKE AS AUTHORISED WHEN I SHOOK HANDS WITH GORBACHEV AT HIS RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN THE KREMLIN ON 6 NOVEMBER. HE ASKED ME, IN RETURN, TO CONVEY HIS BEST WISHES TO THE PRIME MINISTER: HE STILL RECALLED WITH GREAT PLEASURE HER VISIT TO MOSCOW EARLIER THIS YEAR - THAT HAD BEEN A 'MAJOR STEP FORWARD' IN OUR RELATIONS. ON THE QUESTION OF HIS OWN VISIT TO THE UK, GORBACHEV SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO REFLECT: BUT HE HOPED THAT AGREEMENT ON ITS TIMING WOULD NOT BE TOO LONG DELAYED.

2. I WAS ABLE TO HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH RAISA GORBACHEVA AT THE KREMLIN RECEPTION ON 7 NOVEMBER AND SPOKE IN SIMILAR TERMS TO HER. SHE SAID THAT SHE HOPED THAT IT WOULD INDEED BE POSSIBLE FOR HER AND HER HUSBAND TO VISIT LONDON AGAIN 'SOON'.

3. I HAVE INFORMED SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT OF THE MFA OF THE TERMS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ORAL MESSAGE.

CARTLEDGE

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PRIME MINISTER

The attached letter from Charles Wilson asks you to review Mr. Gorbachev's forthcoming book in the Times.

It is an unusual request and I expect that your instinctive reaction will be to say no. But it actually bears a moment's reflection. A review would be an opportunity for quite an important public statement on major East-West issues after the Summit in early December. Moreover since the main purpose of Gorbachev's book is to show himself in the best possible light to Western public opinion it is important to administer a powerful antidote. No one is better placed than you. It could be done without seeming to criticise Mr. Gorbachev personally (or not much).

I realise that this is a bit of a long shot. But you might like to discuss it.

(C. D. POWELL)

9 November 1987