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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 November 1988

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT

Sir William Heseltine has confirmed to me The Queen's approval for a full-scale Guard of Honour to be mounted for President Gorbachev in the Quadrangle of Buckingham Palace.

I also understand that The Queen hopes that both the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary will attend her lunch in honour of President Gorbachev.

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CEPC

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EXTRACT OF MINUTE

Spoken to Sir
L. Hervey. He
considers that a
carpet guard & band
is acceptable.

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FROM: S N P Hemans, Soviet Dept

DATE: 18 November 1988

Private Secretary

THE GORBACHEV VISIT: GUARD OF HONOUR

2. In practical terms this means:

- (a) does The Queen wish to have a formal Guard of Honour ceremony and, if so, would she wish it at Buckingham Palace before lunch on Wednesday 14 December or somewhere else?
- (b) normal arrangements for a Head of State's arrival would be a carpet guard which, in effect, means a number of soldiers and airmen lining a red carpet. The MOD have offered a band to play the Soviet National Anthem. Mr Hervey was of the view that the guard should be augmented, ie more than the usual number of soldiers/airmen as otherwise it would look very thin;
- (c) what about departure? The normal form is no guard, no band, not even a carpet. The Prime Minister's instructions are, however, that "political considerations outweigh normal protocol". At Brize Norton there was a red carpet and a guard and the band. I would expect the Prime Minister to want at least as formal a departure as the arrival. The Russians are extremely protocol-minded and would regard it as very odd indeed for their Head of State to depart with no ceremony. Given the media interest it will be even more important to make things look good.

18. XI. 1918
PMRP