

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM MOSCOW  
TO DESKBY 201730Z FCO  
TELNO 91  
OF 201655Z JANUARY 89

YOUR TELNO 75: MR GORBACHEV'S VISIT

## SUMMARY

1. PRIME MINISTER'S AGREEMENT TO DATES CONVEYED TO GORBACHEV'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER. GORBACHEV WILL VISIT CUBA BEFORE UK. EVIDENT ENTHUSIASM FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER: AND A STRONG INTEREST IN EARLY CONFIRMATION OF A MEETING WITH THE QUEEN.

## DETAIL

2. I CALLED ON 20 JANUARY ON CHERNYAYEV, ADVISER ON FOREIGN POLICY TO GORBACHEV, IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUILDING. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE HEAD OF THE SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT IN THE MFA.
3. I SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED IN TUR. CHERNYAYEV REPLIED THAT GORBACHEV WOULD BE VISITING CUBA BEFORE THE UK, AND WOULD THEREFORE ARRIVE IN BRITAIN ON THE EVENING OF 5 APRIL. HE PICKED UP MY REFERENCE TO THE QUEEN, AND ASKED ME TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT A MEETING WITH HER MAJESTY WOULD BE PART OF GORBACHEV'S PROGRAMME. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE OBSERVED THAT THE CUBAN LEG MEANT THAT GORBACHEV DID NOT HAVE FLEXIBILITY IN THE TIMING OF HIS ARRIVAL. AT THE END OF OUR DISCUSSION, HE REITERATED THAT HE WOULD WAIT TO HEAR FROM ME ABOUT THE QUEEN.
4. WE AGREED THAT MY CALL WOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED BY EITHER SIDE TO THE PRESS, AS THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE SPECULATION. I ASKED CHERNYAYEV TO LET US HAVE AN ANSWER EARLY NEXT WEEK TO OUR PROPOSAL TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON 30 JANUARY. HE RAISED NO DIFFICULTY, AND APPEARED TO AGREE WITH OUR REASONING.
5. CHERNYAYEV INDICATED THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PLAN ON THE LINES PROPOSED FOR DECEMBER. HE BECAME ANIMATED WHEN WE DISCUSSED THE PROGRAMME, AND SAID THAT GORBACHEV HAD BEEN EXCITED IN DECEMBER AT THE PROSPECT OF THE VISIT. GORBACHEV HAD REACTED VERY WARMLY TO A TELEGRAM HE RECEIVED IN NEW YORK FROM AMBASSADOR ZAMYATIN, ABOUT THE CANCELLATION OF THE DECEMBER VISIT. GORBACHEV HAD BEEN TOUCHED AT

THE PRIME MINISTER'S EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY OVER THE EARTHQUAKE, AND HER UNDERSTANDING OF HIS REASONS FOR RETURNING TO MOSCOW

6. CONTINUING IN THE SAME VEIN, CHERNYAYEV SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRIME MINISTER READ GORBACHEV'S STATEMENTS IN FULL, NOT MERELY IN SUMMARY. GORBACHEV WAS EQUALLY ATTENTIVE TO HER PUBLIC STATEMENTS, ABOUT WHICH HE OFTEN COMMENTED. HE FOUND MANY COMMON LINES TO THEIR THINKING, NOT ONLY ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, BUT ALSO ON DOMESTIC POLICY: 'THATCHERISM' - CHERNYAYEV REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES, AND WITH GORBACHEV WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WITH ANTICIPATION AND PLEASURE.

7. CHERNYAYEV AGREED WITH ME THAT BOTH LEADERS WOULD WANT TO GIVE PRECEDENCE TO BUSINESS OVER PROTOCOL, AND WOULD WISH TO SECURE USEFUL RESULTS FROM THE SUMMIT. I SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE INTERESTED TO HAVE GORBACHEV'S ACCOUNT OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, WHICH IS DUE TO BE COMPLETED IN THE WEEK BEFORE HIS VISIT, AND ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ECONOMIC REFORM. AS OUR WORK TOGETHER IN NEW YORK ON AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST HAD SHOWN, THERE WERE NOW MANY AREAS FOR COOPERATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD. WE HAD PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO WHAT MR GORBACHEV HAD SAID AT THE UNITED NATIONS ON ARMS CONTROL AND ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. PROGRESS ON BOTH WAS IMPORTANT TO US. WE WERE KEEN TO SEE BILATERAL TRADE EXPAND. I MENTIONED OUR CURRENT MISSION LOOKING AT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN ARMENIA.

8. IT WAS LEFT THAT CHERNYAYEV OWED ME AN EARLY ANSWER ON THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, AS WELL AS ON TIMINGS AND IN DUE COURSE THE COMPOSITION OF THE PARTY: AND THAT I WOULD GIVE HIM FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT BUCKINGHAM PALACE AS SOON AS IT WAS AVAILABLE.

BRAITHWAITE

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