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TOP COPY

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DEDIP

FM MOSCOW

TO DESKBY 221730Z FCU

TELNO 332

OF 221525Z FEBRUARY 89

Handwritten notes:
RS
23/2/89
ESB 020/1
24 FEB 89
Initials and signatures:
T. ...
R. ...
W. ...

FOR HEAD OF SOVIET DEPARTMENT
YOUR TELNO 248 (RECEIVED PM ON 21 FEBRUARY)
MR GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO THE UK
SUMMARY

1. ACTION TAKEN ON 22 FEBRUARY WITH GORBACHEV'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER. CHERNYAYEV HOPES TO GIVE US A REPLY ON 27 OR 28 FEBRUARY. DOES NOT QUERY WINDSOR CASTLE.

DETAIL

2. AS SOON AS I SAW YOUR TUR, I REQUESTED ANOTHER MEETING WITH CHERNYAYEV. HE WAS WORKING FROM HOME OUTSIDE MOSCOW DURING GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO KIEV, BUT CAME INTO TOWN ON 22 FEBRUARY TO SEE ME. USPENSKY (SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT) WAS WITH HIM.

3. I WENT THROUGH THE POINTS IN YOUR TUR, AND LEFT A FULL SPEAKING NOTE (COPY TO YOU BY TOMORROW'S BAG). I EMPHASISED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD GIVEN PERSONAL THOUGHT TO THESE VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS, AND WAS KEEN TO MEET WHATEVER WISHES MR AND MRS GORBACHEV MIGHT EXPRESS.

4. CHERNYAYEV SAID THAT HE WOULD PUT THE PROPOSALS TO MR AND MRS GORBACHEV OVER THE WEEKEND, FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN FROM THE UKRAINE. HE HOPED TO LET ME HAVE ANSWERS (ESPECIALLY TO THE GUILDHALL PROPOSAL, WHICH I STRESSED) ON 27 OR 28 FEBRUARY. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE COMMENTS:

YOUR PARA 2(A): PUBLIC SPEECH

CHERNYAYEV'S FIRST REACTION WAS THAT WHAT GORBACHEV WISHED TO SAY TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE, HE WOULD SAY AT THE OFFICIAL DINNER. I DESCRIBED THE STATUS OF THE GUILDHALL AND THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF SPEAKING TO A LARGER AUDIENCE THERE, WHILE SIMPLY EXCHANGING SHORT TOASTS AT NO 10 DOWNING STREET. CHERNYAYEV SEEMED ATTRACTED BY THIS, IF A GUILDHALL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT COULD BE FITTED IN (EG ABOUT 11.00AM ON THE MORNING OF FRIDAY 7 APRIL).

YOUR PARA 2(A): TELEVISION INTERVIEW

CHARNYAYEV RULED OUT A TV INTERVIEW. THIS HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED

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WITH GORBACHEV. HE HAD DECIDED ON THE EXCHANGE OF NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS BETWEEN HIM AND THE PRIME MINISTER (IZVESTIYA AND THE TIMES) AND DID NOT WISH TO ADD TO THAT.

YOUR PARA 2(B): ARMENIA CEREMONY

USPENSKY PULLED A LONG FACE AND STARTED EXPLAINING TO CHERNYAYEV WHY A DETAILED AGREEMENT ON THE ARMENIAN PROJECT WAS UNLIKELY TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETED IN TIME. BUT CHERNYAYEV RIGHTLY WAS INCLINED TO BRUSH THIS ASIDE, AND TO SEE THE CASE FOR SIGNING SOME FORM OF STATEMENT OF INTENT (TO ANNOUNCE AND BLESS THE PROJECT), LEAVING THE FINE PRINT TO BE FINALISED IN ITS OWN TIME. USPENSKY SUGGESTED THAT AT THE SAME CEREMONY OTHER AGREEMENTS MIGHT BE SIGNED, EG THAT ON NUCLEAR SAFETY. CHERNYAYEV'S LINE AS THAT HE SAW NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE WITH A SIGNING CEREMONY WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A "POLITICAL ACTION."

YOUR PARA 2(E): MEETING WITH BUSINESSMEN

USPENSKY PUT IN A PLUG FOR LANCASTER HOUSE. I POINTED OUT THAT THERE MIGHT BE TIME BENEFITS IF THE MEETING WITH THE BUSINESSMEN PRECEDED A GUILDHALL SPEECH, AND TOOK PLACE THERE OR SOMEWHERE NEAR BY.

FACTORY VISIT

CHERNYAYEV QUERIED THE ABSENCE OF A REFERENCE TO A FACTORY VISIT, AND INDICATED THAT GORBACHEV WAS KEEN TO DO THIS IF THE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN A PROBLEM IN DECEMBER COULD BE ACCOMMODATED. I SAID I KNEW THIS WAS UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN YOU AND THE SOVIET EMBASSY. WE WERE KEEN TO MEET WHATEVER WISHES MR (AND MRS) GORBACHEV EXPRESSED.

YOUR PARA 3: MRS GORBACHEVA

CHERNYAYEV WILL TRANSMIT THESE POINTS TO GUSENKOV. I HAVE OFFERED TO CALL ON HIM TO DISCUSS THEM, IF DESIRED. HIS GENERAL REACTION WAS POSITIVE, AND HE SHOWED A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN 3(C), VIZ AN ENCOUNTER WITH CHILDREN.

5. CHERNYAYEV DID NOT COMMENT SUBSTANTIVELY ON ANY OTHER POINTS AT THIS STAGE. HE ASKED NO QUESTIONS ABOUT WINDSOR CASTLE OR THE TIMING OF LUNCH THERE. I PRESENTED THIS ENGAGEMENT AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI. I AM KEEPING THE DEFENSIVE ARGUMENTS IN YOUR TUR IN RESERVE, FOR USE IF NECESSARY NEXT WEEK. BUT IF THE POINT IS NOT QUERIED IN CHERNYAYEV'S EVENTUAL REPLY, WE SHALL BE OVER THAT HURDLE. USPENSKY FUSSED A

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GREAT/

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GREAT DEAL ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIT INTO THE PROGRAMME,
WHEREAS CHERNYAYEV GRASPED THE POINT THAT WE WERE SEEKING TO
ESTABLISH GENERAL WISHES AND AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, WHILE LEAVING
THE SCHEDULE TO BE WORKED OUT IN DETAIL BY YOU.

BRAITHWAITE

LIMITED.

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HD/ NEWS D

HD/ PLANNERS

HD/ PROTOCOL D

PS

PS/ Mr Waldegrave

AS/ PUS

Sir J. Fretwell

Mr Ratford.

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