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*From the Private Secretary*

3 March 1989

MR GORBACHEV'S VISIT

The Soviet Ambassador called on me this evening, on his way to the Foreign Office, to hand over a copy of the programme for Mr Gorbachev's visit, as approved by Mr and Mrs Gorbachev. He had the grace to say that he was sure any points which the Prime Minister wished to make on it would be considered.

The Ambassador said that where proposals which had been put to the Gorbachev's by us did not appear in the programme, the assumption should be that they had been rejected. He hoped we would not continue to press them. This applied, for instance, to the BBC Today Award. Mrs Gorbachev had decided not to visit the various galleries which we had suggested, some of which she had been to in 1984. Nor would she wish to go to a school. But she would be perfectly happy to meet children either at St Paul's, or the London Museum, or during the walkabouts which she would be prepared to do during her sight-seeing tour on the morning of 6 April.

The Ambassador said that now Mr Gorbachev was making a speech at the Guildhall it would not be necessary to have speeches at dinner. We should think in terms of very brief toasts only. I said that the Prime Minister would probably wish to speak briefly following Mr Gorbachev's speech at the Guildhall, as she had done for President Reagan. The Ambassador saw no problem with that. He added that obtaining Mr Gorbachev's agreement to deliver a major speech here was a considerable triumph. We should in fact be getting the speech which had been planned for his visit to Strasbourg. The justification was that Mr Gorbachev's European policy had been conceived during his talks with the Prime Minister in 1984.

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