

CONFIDENTIAL

163635  
MDHIAN 1204

Prime Minister

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM WASHINGTON  
TO DESKBY 040730Z FCO  
TELNO 13  
OF 032337Z JANUARY 90  
INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW

Shevardnadze reading a lot ~~to~~  
much into your December talks. Baker  
will have been briefed on the lines of the  
attached

SM

YOUR TELNO. 1714 TO MOSCOW OF 20 DECEMBER: SHEVARDNADZE'S VISIT  
TO LONDON, 19 DECEMBER

1. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS TOLD ME BAKER  
HAD BEEN STRUCK BY TWO PASSAGES IN A RECENT LETTER FROM  
SHEVARDNADZE WHICH REFERRED TO HIS TALKS IN LONDON. THESE  
SEEMED TO RUN COUNTER TO WHAT THE AMERICANS UNDERSTOOD TO BE OUR  
POSITIONS:

(A) SHEVARDNADZE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE PRIME MINISTER TO  
BE IN FAVOUR OF CONVENING AN ALL-EUROPEAN SUMMIT IN 1990  
PROVIDED IT WAS CAREFULLY PREPARED AND RESULTED IN THE  
PRODUCTION OF AN APPROPRIATE POLITICAL DOCUMENT.

(B) SHEVARDNADZE ALSO TOLD BAKER HE THOUGHT MUTUAL  
UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AS TO THE RIGHT MECHANISM FOR A  
DIALOGUE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, INCLUDING USING EXISTING  
AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN AND  
CSCE. HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO QUOTE MRS THATCHER'S IDEA UNQUOTE  
OF HOLDING PRIVATE WORKING MEETINGS OF THE BIG FOUR ON QUESTIONS  
BEYOND BERLIN SHOULD THAT PROVE NECESSARY.

2. BAKER WILL BE SEEING THE PRESIDENT ON THE AFTERNOON OF 4  
JANUARY TO DISCUSS US POLICIES. HE WOULD FIND IT USEFUL TO HAVE  
ANY COMMENTS OR CLARIFICATION YOU MIGHT HAVE BY THEN. I HAVE  
SAID BOTH QUOTATIONS SEEMED TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAD UNDERSTOOD  
TO BE OUR POSITION, BUT THERE WAS OF COURSE ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY  
OF MISUNDERSTANDING ((A) ABOVE COULD BE AN EXTRAPOLATION FROM  
THE EXCHANGE RECORDED IN PARAGRAPH 9 OF YOUR TELEGRAM UNDER  
REFERENCE. IT IS HARDER TO SQUARE (B) WITH THE TONE OF  
PARAGRAPH 10).

3. I HAVE TOLD SEITZ I WILL DO MY BEST TO GET HIM YOUR COMMENTS  
IN TIME FOR BAKER'S MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT.

WOOD

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