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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 March 1985

Dear Charles,

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13/3

Meeting with Mr Gorbachev

I enclose a brief for the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Gorbachev on 13 March. We await confirmation of the timing from the Embassy in Moscow.

As the Prime Minister will recall, these meetings last about 30 minutes which, with interpretation, means effectively that the Prime Minister will have about 10-12 minutes to make her points.

We expect to receive very soon a full English translation of Gorbachev's speech in Moscow yesterday. We will send it across as soon as it arrives. The Prime Minister will no doubt wish to make suitable references to it when speaking to Gorbachev. These and any other points could be settled at this evening's briefing meeting at the Embassy in Moscow.

Briefs for possible bilateral meetings are in preparation and will be sent to you later.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Le Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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BRIEF FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR GORBACHEV ON
13 MARCH 1985

Arms Control

1. Congratulations. Hope that it will be possible to build on exchange of views at Chequers in December.
2. Have been some hopeful developments since then. US/Soviet nuclear arms control talks restarted in Geneva. Have had two meetings with President Reagan since Chequers meeting. No doubt about US sincerity or Alliance unity.
3. Soviet criticism of UK attitude toward SDI misconceived. Position quite clear. Will support research permitted by ABM Treaty. But no question of deployment without negotiation. Intention to enhance deterrence and stability.
4. West must clearly take account of Soviet ASAT monopoly and existence of world's only ABM system around Moscow. Note that since mid-1970s you have conducted more space launches than rest of world put together.
5. Do not expect early breakthrough at Geneva negotiations. But convinced that substantial results are attainable. Of greatest importance that this should happen.

East/West Relations

6. UK wishes to see improving East/West confidence. Want agreement in all arms control fora. Whether conventional or nuclear, confidence building or chemical weapons.
7. Increasing confidence would be helped by increase in mutual understanding. Need to compliment arms control with discussions in other fields. Systems and political values wide apart. Do not see positions on many questions getting closer. But equally areas where we have common interests.

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8. Reaffirm UK commitment to broad range of contacts at all levels. Attach importance to discussing regional and other issues.

Bilateral Relations

9. Want better bilateral relations. Good opportunities in trade sector. Firms determined and efficient. Full support of government. Agree that Gorbachev's target of 40-50% increase should be attainable. [If necessary. Overriding national security reasons for prevention of CONSARC contract made clear at time.]

10. Look forward to Gromyko's visit to London if possible May.

11. Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons wishes to visit Moscow in April. Gorbachev will recall meeting the Committee in London in December. Hope arrangements can go ahead. Committee's work should be valuable contribution to better understanding between UK and Soviet Union.

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