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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

5 March 1990

PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO MR GORBACHEV

I enclose the reply which the Prime Minister proposes to send to Mr Gorbachev's message, handed over by Mr Medvedev. It is somewhat recast from your draft. Subject to any comments by the Foreign Secretary, I should be grateful if it could be delivered as soon as possible.

CHARLES POWELL

J S Wall Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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PRIME MINISTER,  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T46/90

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 March 1990

Dear Mr. President.

Thank you for the message which Mr Medvedev brought with him. We were very pleased to have him here so soon after the Plenum. The visit was, from our point of view and I hope from his, very successful and worthwhile.

I entirely share your views about the importance of dialogue between us. At a time of great change in Europe, which owes a lot to your own far-sighted and courageous reforms in the Soviet Union, it is more important than ever that we should stay in close and regular contact.

That applies above all to the issue of German unification. Now it is clear that unification will happen, and probably soon, the most important task is to get the security arrangements right, to protect the legitimate interests of all concerned and ensure that unification does not jeopardise stability.

As you will know, I take the view that these goals can best be achieved if a United Germany is a member of the NATO Alliance, but with special arrangements covering the territory of the former GDR which take account of the Soviet Union's security interest. I should also like to see the CSCE framework strengthened and given a more substantial role in ensuring peace and stability in Europe.



The Four plus Two Group set up in Ottawa provides a good forum for dealing with these issues and I hope it can meet as soon as possible. The subjects it needs to discuss include: the security arrangements which would be appropriate following Germany's unification, Berlin, and Germany's borders - though on these the main negotiations must be between the Germans and those with whom they share borders, particularly the Poles. We fully support the Polish Government's wish to see its border with Germany confirmed by a Treaty or other legally-binding instrument.

Mr Medvedev gave me an account of the recent Plenum and I have of course been following subsequent developments closely, in particular the debate in the Supreme Soviet about the establishment of an executive Presidency. I have continued to take every opportunity to express my support for the changes which you are introducing in every aspect of Soviet life.

I am very much looking forward to my visit in June. But a great deal is likely to happen before then, and I hope that we can stay very closely in touch through these messages, or more directly if appropriate.

My husband joins me in sending our warm good wishes to you and Mrs Gorbachev.

*Yours sincerely*

*Raymond Shafter*

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His Excellency Mr. M.S. Gorbachev.