

SECRET  
FM FCO  
TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN  
TELNO 156  
OF 291230Z MARCH 90  
INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, EC POSTS, UKDEL NATO  
INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

MIPT: LITHUANIA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A COREU TELEGRAM WE SHALL BE ISSUING  
LATER TODAY:  
BEGINS

PARTNERS WILL HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER AND MR GORBACHEV. THE DISCUSSION FOCUSSED ON LITHUANIA. MR GORBACHEV MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID THE SITUATION GETTING OUT OF HAND BUT HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AT THE DIFFICULTIES. THE SITUATION IN LITHUANIA CLEARLY REMAINS TENSE, AND IN THE VIEW OF THE UK THE PROSPECTS FOR EARLY AND SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS HIGHLY UNCERTAIN. THE CONSEQUENCES OF A FURTHER ESCALATION OF TENSION BROUGHT ABOUT EITHER BY A FURTHER UNILATERAL MOVE ON THE PART OF THE LITHUANIANS OR ANOTHER DISPLAY OF FORCE BY THE SOVIET ARMY COULD PUT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS OUT OF REACH AND HAVE A SERIOUSLY DAMAGING EFFECT ON EAST/WEST RELATIONS, EUROPEAN SECURITY AND THE PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED REFORM IN THE SOVIET UNION ON WHICH SO MANY HOPES HAVE BEEN PLACED.

THE UK THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT A FURTHER STATEMENT BY THE TWELVE WOULD BE HELPFUL AND TIMELY. THE UK PROPOSES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE PRESIDENCY AND PARTNERS A TEXT ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

THE TWELVE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE SITUATION IN LITHUANIA REMAINS FRAUGHT WITH DANGER AND THAT FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE DIFFICULTIES COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SOVIET UNION, FOR EAST/WEST RELATIONS, FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY, AND ABOVE ALL FOR THE PEOPLE OF LITHUANIA THEMSELVES. THE TWELVE MUCH REGRET THAT A PURPOSEFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE LITHUANIANS AND THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES DOES NOT APPEAR YET TO HAVE STARTED. THE TWELVE ARE CONVINCED THAT, GIVEN GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES, SUCH A DIALOGUE CAN REACH AN OUTCOME ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. THE TWELVE THEREFORE STRONGLY URGE ALL CONCERNED NOT TO PERMIT ACTIONS WHICH COULD FURTHER AGGRAVATE AN ALREADY DELICATE SITUATION AND TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT DELAY.

ENDS

HURD

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

44

MAIN

40

LIMITED  
SOVIET DEPT  
KIEV UNIT  
NEWS DEPT  
PLANNERS  
DEFENCE DEPT

PS  
PS/MR WALDEGRAVE  
PS/PUS  
MR P J WESTON  
MR TAIT

ADDITIONAL

4

PS/NO 10

NNNN