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PRIME MINISTER

Meeting with Gorbachev

We need to decide how to handle the talks with Gorbachev after lunch.

In many ways, it would be best if you were able just to go off with him and two interpreters. But I doubt if he will be ready for this. Equally, talks involving all the guests at lunch (18) would be pretty cumbersome. You might therefore suggest that Gorbachev plus the Soviet Ambassador and one official should meet with you, Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Ambassador in Moscow, to make the occasion more manageable. Alternatively, you might like to do it without either of the two Ambassadors present, though I think there should be a notetaker on each side, since the Russian intention appears to be to get some business done. I see some advantage in the latter format.

Agree?

EDP

Yes

7 December, 1984.

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