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BRITISH EMBASSY
MOSCOW

S J Butt Esq
Soviet Dept
FCO

15 August 1988

Dear Simon,

ARMENIA/AZERBAIDZHAN: GORBACHEV

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Summary

1. Mikhail Gorbachev's position on the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaidzhan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Detail

2. The Ambassador had opportunity to bring up this subject with Gorbachev following an official event. That morning he had met with CPSU Central Committee representative, Volsky. With surprising candour, Gorbachev offered that as much as Erevan and its minority allies in the territory may shout, the resulting verisimilitude does not make their claims true. Despite the decisions made by the Supreme Soviet Presidium, Armenia has maintained a sustained lobbying campaign. Gorbachev alluded that he well knows of the vast sums being paid by Erevan to those around him in a bid to influence Moscow's position.

Yours ever,

Gillian.

Gillian Walton

cc: P S Roland Esq,
SS, RD, FCO