

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE

28



SOVIET  
UNION

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

*p/f 9-7-79.*

4 July 1979

*Dear George,*

Invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Moscow

I reported from Tokyo (Tokyo telegram No. 237) on the Prime Minister's discussion over supper with Mr. Kosygin in Moscow, on the evening of 26 June. The short section of the report on Anglo-Soviet relations records the Prime Minister's confirmation to Mr. Kosygin of the British Government's standing invitation to him to come to London.

You will have seen reports in the Daily Telegraph and other papers today that Mr. Kosygin is reported to have invited the Prime Minister to visit Moscow. I did not myself hear Mr. Kosygin extend an invitation during the supper conversation but the Prime Minister has confirmed that Mr. Kosygin expressed the hope, informally, and en passant, that she would "return to Moscow for a longer stay in the future". The Prime Minister replied that she would be very glad to do so.

The Prime Minister is not pleased with the publicity which Mr. Kosygin's invitation to her has now been given. I have told her that the FCO would not have been aware of it, since there was no reference to the invitation in my reporting telegram. I have suggested to the Prime Minister that the story is most likely to have emanated from the Soviet Embassy here, who have been known to use the Daily Telegraph for such purposes in the past. The Prime Minister is disposed to accept this explanation but I should nevertheless be grateful if you would confirm that the story did not originate with any FCO or British Embassy sources.

*Yours ever,*

*George Walden.*

George Walden, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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*ABO*



Bryan. <sup>5/17</sup>  
4/17

Invite to Moscow.

The PM told Mr James last night that the conversation on this point went roughly as follows:-

Mr K: We hope you will return to Moscow for a longer stay in the future.

P.M.: I would be delighted

PM: There is a standing invitation for you to come to London . . . . .  
(as in Tokyo Tel No 327).

A CKM Lover.

4/7.