



ALE 28
SOVIET UNION

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

B/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,
Gordon Laker

George Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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ABO

Bryan. SM
4/7

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 Loven.

4/7.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 July 1979

Dear Bryan,

Mr Band

Invitation to the Prime Minister to Visit Moscow

JK 9/7

Thank you for your letter of 4 July. Neither the FCO nor the Embassy in Moscow were aware of Mr Kosygin's invitation to the Prime Minister until the Lobby Correspondent's report of it appeared in the Daily Telegraph on 3 July. I can therefore confirm without reservation that the story did not originate with any FCO or British Embassy sources.

Yours *6564*

Paul

(P Lever)
Private Secretary

Bryan G Cartledge Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

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*Private Security Matt to 1304
on 5/11*

Mr Fergusson ✓

cc: PS/PUS
Mr Bullard
Mr Elam (News Department)

INVITATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT MOSCOW

1. I submit a draft reply to Mr Cartledge's letter of 4 July.

C L G Mallaby

C L G Mallaby
Eastern European & Soviet Department
5 July 1979

Mr. Cartledge, to whom I spoke yesterday, Lorry denied my suggestion that all stories by the Lorry Correspondent could normally be attributed to the Press Office or No 10. His suggestion, based on certain leaks last year to the Telegraph, was that the story had come from the Soviet Embassy!

[Signature]
9/11

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File. (9d)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01-

B J P Fall Esq
MOSCOW

Your reference

Our reference

Date 6 July 1979

My dear Brian,

KOSYGIN'S INVITATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER

1. You will no doubt have been surprised to hear news reports on Tuesday morning that Kosygin had invited the Prime Minister to visit the Soviet Union when she stopped over in Moscow on her way to Tokyo on 26 June. So were we: we had heard nothing more from No 10 about the stopover over and above the account of the Prime Minister's conversation with Kosygin contained in Tokyo telno 327.
2. The Prime Minister was much angered by the leak and the FC0 were asked to state formally that they were not responsible for it. Since we did not know about this aspect of the Prime Minister's conversation, it was very easy for us to do this. You will have seen the line No 10 have been taking in response to questions about the invitation. This is all we know since we have received no other account of what exactly may have been said.
3. The incident has not helped FC0/No 10 relations, which are already not good. The implication for you is clearly that you should be very careful indeed when speaking to your contacts in Moscow about the invitation to the Prime Minister not to go beyond No 10's line or speculate about what the Prime Minister's intentions may be. I think you already know that we are having to be very careful indeed about not giving accounts of the Prime Minister's conversations to third parties. We have not yet received permission, for example, to give a debriefing about the Prime Minister's stopover to the West Germans in exchange for the account they have given us of Schmidt's talks with Kosygin and Gromyko the previous day.

Yours ever,
Stephen.

S H Band
Eastern European and Soviet Department

BRIAN CARTLEDGE

I mentioned to you last week that my friends in the Evening News told me that Mr Zamyatin last week approached them through a Moscow stringer. The burden of the message was to filter through the UK press that the Russian invitation to the Prime Minister (conveyed in Moscow en route to Tokyo) was serious, and that the Russians hoped it would be followed through. Although in protocol terms it was their turn to come here, Mr Brezhnev was not fit to travel, and would be prepared to waive protocol. The earlier such a visit could be paid, the better.

This suggestion came as no surprise to you but it was interesting to have the original source of the leak virtually confirmed.



Henry L James
16 July 1979

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FILE

JS



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 July 1979

Dear Paul,

Invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Moscow

In case the Department are not already aware of it, you may like to know that the Evening News have told our Press Office that Victor Louis was told last week by Mr. Zamyatin that Mr. Kosygin's invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Moscow (which he extended in rather a throw-away manner during the Prime Minister's stop-over at Vnukovo on her way to Tokyo) was seriously meant and that the Soviet Government hoped that it would be taken up. Zamyatin apparently said that the Soviet authorities recognised that, in strict protocol terms, it was the turn of the Soviet leadership to visit London; but, since Mr. Brezhnev was not at present fit to travel, they would be prepared to "waive protocol". Zamyatin told Victor Louis that, in the view of the Soviet authorities, the sooner the British Prime Minister could pay a visit to Moscow, the better.

I have not drawn the Prime Minister's attention to the magnanimous Soviet offer to "waive protocol". There is, as you know, in any case no question of the Prime Minister being able to pay a visit to the Soviet Union during the remainder of 1979.

Yours ever,
Gyran Cardew.

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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✓ Trips everywhere - PM Tours Abroad April 79

✓

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01-

B. J. P. Fall Esq
Moscow

Your reference

Our reference

Date 20 July 1979

My dear Brian,

1. There has been a new twist in the saga of Kosygin's invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Moscow (my letter of _____ and your reply of _____). The Evening News told us on 13 July that Victor Louis had telephoned them to say that he had heard that Kosygin had really meant what he said when he invited the Prime Minister and that the Russians hoped the Prime Minister would respond soon.

2. Bryan Cartledge has told us that the Evening News gave the Press Office at No 10 a fuller version of the story. According to this version, Louis had told the Evening News that he had been told the above by Zamyatin. Louis had said that Zamyatin had gone on to say that the Soviet Government recognised that, in strict protocol terms, it was the turn of the Soviet leadership to visit London but that, since Brezhnev was not at present fit to travel, they would be prepared to "waive protocol". Zamyatin apparently told Louis that, in the view of the Soviet authorities, the sooner the Prime Minister could visit Moscow, the better. The Evening News did not print any of this and Bryan Cartledge has commented that he has not drawn the Prime Minister's attention to the magnanimous Soviet offer to "waive protocol" and that there is in any case no question of the Prime Minister being able to visit Moscow this year.

3. As you know, accusing fingers about the leak of the Kosygin invitation have been pointing both ways across Downing Street. (I hope, incidentally, that you did not gain the impression from my letter of _____ that suspicion was being cast in your direction. We had checked with Robert Wade-Gery that you knew nothing of the invitation and the denial of ~~the~~ responsibility we sent to No 10 therefore included you as well as us.) The temptation to point the finger at the Soviet Embassy here is of course strengthened by the new Louis twist.

Yours ever,

Stephen

x Sorry - can't lay my hands on the papers.

S H Band
Eastern European and
Soviet Department