



Prime Minister.

Agree that we should
invite Gorbachev, Aliev, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Gromyko on the terms proposed London SW1A 2AH
- and that you should receive
them all.

4 June, 1984

A.S.C. $\frac{4}{6}$.

Yes mt

John [unclear]

Contacts with the Soviet Union

In your letter of 14 May you asked us to be in touch about the possibility of inviting senior members of the Soviet Politburo to the UK. This matter has now been considered and the Foreign Secretary proposes that we should make a start by inviting Mr Gorbachev in 1984 and Mr Aliev in 1985 or 1986.

Issuing invitations in either case will not be straightforward because both are senior party rather than government figures. Gorbachev as I explained in my letter of 10 May was recently appointed Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Council of the Union (one of the Chambers of the Soviet Parliament). He therefore has a theoretical opposite number in Sir Anthony Kershaw, as Chairman of the FAC. The invitation would therefore have to issue from Sir A Kershaw and there would (as in Canada which Gorbachev visited in 1983 in a Parliamentary capacity) have to be a meeting between the FAC and Mr Gorbachev.

As to the occasion on which he might be invited, there is conveniently an outstanding invitation from the British Group of the IPU for a delegation of the Supreme Soviet to come to London in December this year. Provided the IPU and Sir A Kershaw agree, an invitation might be sent from the latter suggesting that Mr Gorbachev come as a member, or more likely leader of the Supreme Soviet delegation. When Sir I Sutherland delivers the invitation in Moscow, he would also need to indicate that we envisaged Mr Gorbachev meeting senior British Ministers and the Prime Minister herself. We would hope to deliver this message soon enough for Sir Geoffrey Howe to be in a position to follow it up in Moscow in early July.

Mr Aliev in fact holds a senior Government post. However his economic responsibilities do not appear to include relations with the capitalist countries (which are dealt with by the rather less interesting 75 year old Deputy Prime Minister Arkhipov with whom the Russians may try to fob us off). We shall therefore be seeking the Soviet Ambassador's advice as to who the most appropriate host for Mr Aliev might be. We would intend to suggest, if he is agreeable, that it might be Mr Tebbit. We would make clear that it was Mr Aliev personally we were hoping to invite to the UK, not simply an appropriate senior Minister dealing with East/West economic affairs. As in Mr Gorbachev's case we would wish to be in a position to say that the Prime Minister would definitely receive Mr Aliev.

As far as timing is concerned we would make clear to the Ambassador that an invitation to Mr Gorbachev is being extended

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to Mr Gorbachev for 1984. We hoped that in 1985 Mr Gromyko would pay a return visit for Sir Geoffrey Howe's visit this summer. We would also welcome a visit by Mr Aliev in 1985 or 1986 if this was more convenient. The Russians may be surprised to receive in the next few months three invitations for members of the Politburo. But they will ensure that there is no bunching of the visits and the invitations will be a practical demonstration of our desire to increase contacts at a senior political level.

I would be grateful for the Prime Minister's agreement that we should indicate that these three senior Soviet visitors to the UK could expect to call on her.

I am copying this letter to Callum McCarthy (DTI) who is aware in general terms of what is planned and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours

R B Bone

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Private Secretary

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SOVIET UNION: Relations Pt 2