

CONFIDENTIAL

CFPC (F)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16.10.84

*hand of the Prime Minister*  
*ms.*

*Prime Minister*

*Will you see him here? Or invite him to your dacha? (15/16 December is a week-end).*

*Dear Charles,*

Contacts with the Soviet Union

In your letter of 5 June you conveyed the Prime Minister's agreement that invitations should be extended to Gorbachev, Aliyev and Gromyko in the ways proposed by Sir Geoffrey Howe. You also informed us that the Prime Minister agreed to see the three visitors if the invitations were accepted.

*CIP*  
*16/x*

The present position is that Mr Gromyko has agreed in principle to visit this country in 1985. In discussion with Sir Geoffrey Howe in New York recently he said that the second half of May might be about the right time. We will be proposing precise dates to the Russians in due course.

As far as the invitation to Mr Gorbachev is concerned, the Soviet Ambassador told Sir Geoffrey yesterday that Mr Gorbachev had accepted the invitation to lead a delegation from the Supreme Soviet in December. He looked forward to meeting British Parliamentarians, and seeing senior political figures including the Prime Minister. The dates suggested by the Soviet side are for the visit to take place starting on either 15, 16 or 17 December. (The invitation had originally been extended for the week beginning 3 December.) Popov also took the opportunity of expressing his condolences and sincere sympathy for those afflicted by the bomb attack at Brighton. He mentioned Mr and Mrs Tebbit in particular.

The Soviet Ambassador will be calling on the Speaker on 17 October to inform him of Mr Gorbachev's acceptance. Thereafter the detailed arrangements will be for Mr Temple-Morris, Sir Anthony Kershaw and ourselves to discuss and settle with the Russians. We will in due course be making recommendations to the Prime Minister about the timing of Mr Gorbachev's call on her. For the time being, however, we have urged those involved on the Parliamentary side to keep the fact and the dates of the visit confidential until more detailed arrangements have been worked out and agreed.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,*  
*Len Appleyard*

(L V Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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Soviet Union Relations but 3.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

LONDON SW1A 2AA



*Dear Sir,*

16 OCT 1984



*Yours faithfully,  
[Signature]*