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Prime Minister Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH
24 October 1984

*Agree to proposed arrangements?
Should we not press to go out of London and*

Dear Charles, see something of British life?

Dec. is not a good time for this mb

Visit by Mr Gorbachev

In your letter of 17 October you indicated that the Prime Minister's inclination was to invite Mr Gorbachev to lunch at Chequers on 15 or 16 December.

As you know, the Speaker has written to the Soviet Ambassador accepting the dates proposed by the Soviet side, i.e. a visit of a week starting on 15 December. Sir Geoffrey Howe has considered what the Government's input into the visit might be, apart from the Parliamentary events which will be organised by Peter Temple-Morris and Sir Anthony Kershaw.

Sir Geoffrey recommends that, in addition to the lunch at Chequers to be given by the Prime Minister (probably on 16 December, since Gorbachev is unlikely to arrive until the evening of 15 December), he should have a full session of talks with Gorbachev at the FCO on the morning of 17 December. These talks would be followed by a lunch given by the Government to which both Parliamentary delegations would be invited, together with some other prominent figures in the Anglo-Soviet field. Later in the week, and depending on Gorbachev's interests, we might arrange for talks with another senior Minister with trade and industry or agricultural responsibilities. A Cabinet Minister or Malcolm Rifkind might also offer an entertainment (opera/concert) to which a smaller number of people might be invited.

While the Prime Minister's lunch on 16 December and Sir Geoffrey's talks and formal lunch on 17 December might be thought to be putting a rather strong Governmental accent on the early stages of what is, in principle, intended to be an IPU exchange, it has the advantage of leaving the remainder of that week free for a visit to Peking and Hong Kong should the Prime Minister decide that this was the most convenient time for such a visit.

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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Relatives : SOVIET UNION R-3.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AA



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