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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Office of the Leader of  
the Opposition

November 29th 1984

Dear Robin

At Mr Kinnock's meeting on Monday, November 26th, with Mr L Tolkunov, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, there was a discussion of the forthcoming visit to Britain of Mr Gorbachev. Mr Tolkunov asked that we should pass on to the Prime Minister his view that Mr Gorbachev's visit would be "a new opening towards good relations" between the USSR and the UK. He particularly hoped that the UK Government would help in setting a tone for the visit of the delegation led by Mr Gorbachev which would build on sincere Soviet intentions in this field.

Mr Tolkunov hoped that the delegation's visit would not be unnecessarily disturbed by hostile demonstrations. Mr Kinnock made it clear that peaceful demonstrations had long been a traditional part of British political life and that there was no way in which they could or should be stopped. He did, however, suggest in conversation with Mr Chernyaev and Mr Zagladin that one way of reducing the possibility of such demonstration was that the Soviet delegation would be willing to appoint one of its members a spokesman, in order to speak to various groups in this country who want to make points about civil rights in the Soviet Union. They said that they would consider that suggestion.

I informed David Ratford, the Minister at the British Embassy, of Mr Kinnock's talk with Mr Tolkunov.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Clements".

Richard Clements  
Executive Officer

Robin Butler  
Principal Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1