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cell ①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 October 1984

Prime Minister

Agree to see him?

CDD
5/x.

If he wasn't
important enough to
be present, it's one of
the many arguments
carried out in Hungary.
I should
never have
been doing it
at all.

Dear Charles,

Visit by Mr Matyas Szuros, Central Committee Secretary of
the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party

Mr Matyas Szuros will be visiting London as the guest of Her Majesty's Government, from 28 to 31 October. The Foreign Secretary is having talks with him on the afternoon of 31 October and suggests that it would be useful if the Prime Minister could receive Mr Szuros for a short call.

Mr Szuros is the Party Secretary responsible for foreign affairs and arguably the most influential Hungarian to visit Britain since the war. He is particularly well versed in East/West matters and Hungary's relations with the Soviet Union having served in Moscow for several years. It is rare for a Party official of his level to visit the West: we are usually forced to conduct our business through the less important Foreign Ministry channel. The Hungarians attach a great deal of importance to his visit, which they see as maintaining the momentum created by the Prime Minister's visit to Hungary and as a demonstration of their wish to stay in business with the West despite the cancellation of the Honecker and Zhivkov visits to the FRG and the cold wind from Moscow. An account of what is said to Mr Szuros in London on East/West relations is sure to reach Moscow.

The Prime Minister did not meet Mr Szuros during her visit to Hungary. He understands but does not speak English.

I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister would be prepared to receive Mr Szuros for a short call during the period 29-31 October.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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Hankway Kelass.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AA

5 OCT 1964



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 October 1984

[Handwritten signature]

Visit by Mr. Matyas Szuros, Central Committee Secretary
of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party

Thank you for your letter of 5 October about Mr. Szuros' visit. The Prime Minister is able to see him at 0930 on Tuesday 30 October.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

I will of course tell
the Foreign Office that you
can't see him.

But I'm a bit
surprised — you found the
paper on the key role of
Communist Central Committee
International Departments fascinating;
he is the head of one.
I expect that the reason why
they didn't wheel him out
out in Budapest is that
as a purely party official,
they would not have thought it
right for a visit from a
Western Prime Minister. C.D.D.