

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 September 1986

CDP  
1/K.

Dear Charles,

US/Soviet Relations

The Soviet Charge d'Affaires, Mr Gventsadze, called on Mr Derek Thomas this afternoon and delivered an oral message from Mr Gorbachev to the Prime Minister. I enclose an unofficial translation. Gventsadze described the message as a personal one and said that Mr Gorbachev would hope that Mrs Thatcher would reply.

Derek Thomas undertook to pass the message on at once. He welcomed Mr Gorbachev's promptness in getting his views to us, and said that he expected that the Prime Minister would indeed reply in due course. He added that she would welcome the forthcoming meeting between the President and the General Secretary and hope that it would produce concrete results.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF SPEAKING NOTE GIVEN TO FCO  
POLITICAL DIRECTOR BY SOVIET CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ON 30  
SEPTEMBER 1986

It has just been announced that, by agreement, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, M S Gorbachev, and the President of the USA, R Reagan, will meet on 11-12 October 1986 in Reykjavik (Iceland). On the instruction of M S Gorbachev we would wish to inform you of the motives leading to this step and the background to the achievement of this agreement.

The proposal for an early confidential meeting - either in Iceland or in London - was put forward by M S Gorbachev in his personal message to R Reagan in reply to the latter's letter of 25 July. This message was recently handed over in Washington to the President of the USA by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, E A Shevardnadze. This proposal arose from the fact that, having analysed the course of the negotiations in Geneva and the content of Reagan's letter (mentioned above), the Soviet leadership came to the conclusion that the whole process of Soviet-American dialogue was in need of a serious impulse. At present the negotiations are practically marking time, creating only the appearance of constructive work. It was also taken into account that



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the overwhelming majority of responsible State leaders of East and West, the majority of governments and the world public are insistently coming out in favour of the holding of a Soviet/American Summit meeting.

This proposal of ours does not mean that the visit of M S Gorbachev to the United States, on which there was agreement at the Geneva meeting, is being cancelled. But in order that it should be useful, a certain confidence is necessary that this visit will produce results.

Our initiative was intensively discussed in the contacts between E A Shevardnadze and G Shultz in Washington and New York and, despite all the complicating circumstances, which were not created by our side, it led to the agreement which has now been made known.

The short but substantive meeting has the task, in our opinion, of indicating steps for the swift elaboration at the level of responsible organisations of draft documents on 2-3 key questions of disarmament, which could become the subject of negotiations at the Soviet/American Summit meeting in Washington.

The agreement reached reflects, in our view, the evident interest everywhere in the world, including from your side, that the meeting of the leaders of the USSR and the USA should not simply take place but should lead to substantive agreements on the most important directions for lessening the nuclear threat.



We hope that your country, to the extent of its possibilities, will facilitate the fruitful course of Soviet/American Summit dialogue and the general amelioration of the world political climate.



DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Private Secretary

Reference (2)

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street

*Prime Minister  
This is Mr.  
Gorbachev's message  
to you.  
CM*

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

SUBJECT:

US/SOVIET RELATIONS

CAVEAT .....

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Enclosures flag(s) .....



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