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cc Mini-Ab. Site ①



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

You told Mr. Pym last year that you were opposed to a visit to Moscow by a senior Minister but could perhaps envisage a visit at a lower level, provided it had a clear purpose and the Americans were given advance warning.

11 April 1983

Dear Sir,

Agree that Nicholson Rifkind should visit Moscow at the end of this month?

A.J.C. 11/4.

Yes - but see letter part in the wild - int

You will recall that, when the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary discussed East/West relations with the Prime Minister on 17 November last year, one of the points he mentioned was that Mr Rifkind might pay a visit to Moscow.

During his visit to this country in February, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Ryzhov, issued a formal invitation to Mr Rifkind to visit Moscow. The dates of 24-29 April would be convenient for both sides. Subject to confirmation that the Russians would offer an appropriate and business-like programme, Mr Pym believes that it would be useful for Mr Rifkind to undertake the visit. There are a number of bilateral Anglo/Soviet issues on which discussion needs to be carried forward: and there would be advantage in putting across our views on arms control and other East/West issues at this level.

The Americans have been told that Mr Rifkind hopes to make such a visit.

Mr Rifkind would be accompanied by his Private Secretary and by one other official from the FCO.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

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10 Downing Street

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Foreign Pt 1: East/West Labels Pt 3
(Cab 2)

1 APR 1987

