

PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET TELEVISION

You have agreed to give an interview to Soviet television tomorrow, mostly about the Summit. The main questions which the interviewer - who also interviewed you last December - intends to ask are:

1. What is the influence of the current Soviet-American dialogue on the development of political events in the world?

Answer

The influence of the Summit and the Soviet-American dialogue is a positive one. The increasing number of contacts at every level are making it possible to negotiate realistically and in detail on an ever-wider range of subjects. This in turn provides scope for reaching understanding about some of the world's regional problems. The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, which we warmly welcome, is the first fruit of this process. We hope it will produce similar progress in Southern Africa, in the Middle East and in Cambodia. But there is also a wider impact from the Summit: it is changing attitudes and perceptions; the more people get to know each other - and you very much welcome the planned expansion of youth exchanges - the less the dangers of confrontation.

2. Is it possible and desirable to see a more active part of Western Europe in such a dialogue?

Answer

Western Europe does participate in the dialogue through the very close contacts and consultation which exist on the Western side and which have been meticulously observed by the Americans. Where European interests are directly involved,

then negotiations are of course multilateral and Europe is directly engaged in the dialogue. This is true in the CSCE process and will be the case in the negotiations on conventional force reductions that we hope to see. But it would be a great mistake for people in the Soviet Union to expect Europe to be an independent third force equidistant between the United States and the Soviet Union. We are firm Allies in NATO and will not be detached.

3. How would you comment on the last Soviet-American Summit and its results?

Answer

Overall you have a very positive assessment of the results of the US/Soviet Summit. It is taken as a further important step towards the more stable relations between East and West that both sides want to see. It made a lot of useful if unspectacular progress on individual issues, particularly arms control. It is also important that the Summit process is becoming more normal - that is a very positive development.

4. Your meetings and discussions with Mr. Gorbachev allow me to ask you the following question: can the Soviet Union be trusted by the West?

Answer

Trust and confidence take a very long time to develop. That is one reason why discussions on human rights are so important. As President Reagan said in his speech in London on the Summit 'it is only on the basis of realism and public candour about all issues in our relations including human rights, that we can increase confidence'. The degree to which we trust the Soviet Union will depend on our perception of how the Soviet Union treats its own citizens. There have been

important improvements and we very much hope they will continue, not least at your forthcoming Party Conference.

5. What can be said about the relations between our two countries at the moment?

Answer

Our relations are steadily improving. We were very fortunate to have a visit from Mr. Gorbachev in 1984 before he became General Secretary. As a result of which he and I have been able to develop a candid dialogue and generally a much better understanding of our respective positions. I remember with tremendous pleasure and enjoyment my visit to the Soviet Union last year, which I believe took those relations a step forward, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming Mr. Gorbachev on an official visit as General Secretary to the United Kingdom. I can assure him of a very warm reception.

I have also included in the folder the notes prepared for your interview with Charles Wheeler and Alistair Burnett last Friday.

C D P

C. D. POWELL

6 June 1988

SLHAWZ

PRIME MINISTER

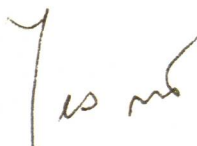
INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET TELEVISION

You are to be interviewed tomorrow at 5.00 PM by Soviet television. The interviewer will be Vsevelod Shishkovsky who interviewed you last December after the Gorbachev visit.

Charles is submitting briefing separately. The interview is scheduled to last around 15 minutes. It would first be shown on Soviet television and would later be included in part in a programme about the Moscow summit which it is hoped will also include interviews with other leaders. This programme will be shown to delegates at the Party Conference later this month.

The make-up lady will be available for you at 5.00.

Content to use the White Room?



MICHAEL BATES
Press Office
6 June 1988

PRIME MINISTER

REQUEST FOR AUTOGRAPH

Vsevolod Shishkovsky, who interviewed you for Soviet TV last December, has sent you a copy of a photograph taken with you and asks if you could autograph the other for him.

Agree?



BERNARD INGHAM

3 June 1988



PRIME MINISTER

~~cc. Mr. Ingham~~

MOSCOW SUMMIT: TV INTERVIEWS

I attach some points which you may like
to get across in the television interviews.

CDP

C. D. POWELL

3 June 1988

MOSCOW SUMMIT: TELEVISION INTERVIEWS

The following seem to me the main points to get across:

- it was a very successful summit from every angle, with solid and substantial progress on a wide range of issues.
- you don't think it is yet generally perceived in the West how much President Reagan has succeeded in changing the nature of East-West relations during his period of office. By restoring the West's defences and remaining absolutely firm on basic principles he has brought the Russians to acknowledge that they are not going to browbeat us or intimidate us, and that there is no alternative to trying to establish a more peaceful and stable relationship. It has required tremendous strength of character and inner determination: but he has had the vision and the constancy to do it.
- you give full credit to Mr. Gorbachev too. He is a thoroughly realistic leader with a very clear sense of priorities. He wants to make the Soviet Union a modern society and he knows that this cannot be done if they continue to pursue randomly expansionist policies from an inadequate economic base. Your original judgement of him as a man you can do business with is thoroughly vindicated.
- the fact that such Summits are now regarded as normal is a bonus. We are 'managing' problems across the East/West divide and that is much better than confrontation.
- to speak of the Summit as a success does not obscure the fact that very substantial differences persist between East and West. But we are now tackling those differences in face to face negotiations, rather than shouting across the fence.

- the main specific achievements of the Summit were:
 - on arms control further to advance the negotiations on Strategic Arms. It is too early to say whether an agreement can be reached later this year. The issues are very complex, particularly verification, and we are dealing here with the most crucial elements of our defence. The President has made clear that he will not be rushed. It is more important to get the right agreement than to get it soon.
 - but important progress is being made on technical issues, for instance the agreement that each side will notify the other of ballistic missile launches and the joint verification experiment for nuclear tests. The latter means that technicians from each side will be working at the others nuclear test sites. It is in this practical way that confidence and trust are built up.
 - the other agreed priorities for arms control are being pursued i.e. reductions in chemical and conventional weapons. The President was quite clear that there could be no further reductions in short-range nuclear weapons in Europe until we had a balance of conventional forces.
 - (if asked) it is common knowledge that the President, who is a man of great vision, looks forward to a day when the world could be free of nuclear weapons. But he knows that day is a very long way off and is concerned to preserve effective nuclear deterrence at lower levels of weapons in the meantime. That is what these negotiations are all about.
 - useful progress was made too on problems like Angola and Cambodia. It is helpful that all these matters are now being constantly discussed in detail.
- You were particularly pleased that the President made such

a strong stand on human rights. These lie at the very crux of East/West differences. Of course we welcome the improvements which have taken place. But it is not enough just to settle a few individual cases. We want to see a complete change of attitude, as well as legal and institutional changes so that basic rights and freedoms such as freedom of worship are guaranteed for all. It is when we have that that the nature of East/West relations will really change.

- the impact of the President's speeches describing liberty at the very heart of the Communist world cannot be under-estimated.

- you think that President Reagans presence in Moscow will have had a very important psychological effect. Now the Russian people have seen him and the sort of character he is, it will be much harder - indeed impossible - for the Soviet authorities to convince their people that they are threatened by the United States.

C. D. POWELL

3 June 1988

DS2AHZ

1. MR POWELL

2. PRIME MINISTER

An excellent idea
if you can find the time
CDP

Mr Ingham

①

Will do

Vsevolod Shishkovsky, Soviet TV and radio, who interviewed you for Soviet television last December, says that Soviet TV is producing a film about the recent Gorbachev-Reagan Summit.

The idea is to show it on Russian TV and to the delegates of the party conference in June. It will include, he says, interviews with Western leaders and he wonders whether you would give him a 15 minute interview for this purpose.

Mr Shishkovsky has listed the following questions, in his words:

1. What is the influence of the current Soviet-American dialogue on the development of political events in the world?
2. Is it possible and desirable to see a more active part of Western Europe in such a dialogue?
3. How would you comment on the last Soviet-American Summit and its results?
4. Your meetings and discussions with Mr Gorbachev allow me to ask you the following question: Can the Soviet Union be trusted by the West?
5. What can be said about the relations between our two countries at the moment?

This seems an attractive idea if you could spare 20 minutes at any time of your convenience over the next 10 days.



BERNARD INGHAM

3 June 1988