

cc Mr Powell  
Mr Perks

cc B'af

PRIME MINISTER

BBC RUSSIAN SERVICE - PHONE IN

At the suggestion of John Tusa, Managing Director, BBC External Broadcasting, you have agreed to take part on Monday evening in an hour's phone-in from the Soviet Union.

The interview will take place from 5pm at Bush House and Terry Perks will accompany you.

The programme will go out at 8-9pm Moscow time in what will be prime listening time in the Soviet Union. Since January 1987 the BBC's Russian Service has operated without jamming and 18million Russians are estimated to listen at least once a week.

Mr Tusa originally suggested the phone-in as soon as possible after the Reagan Summit but that was not possible. It now comes soon after the Soviet Communist Party Congress and is therefore well timed.

The programme will be anchored by Diran Meghreblian an experienced Bush House man who covered your visit to the Soviet Union last year. He will sit opposite you and translate simultaneously the questions as they come in. You are asked to speak fairly deliberately by way of reply because your answers will be translated simultaneously. Your voice will be heard in full at the start of the answer but then lightly faded to allow the simultaneous translation to be heard in Russia.

Simultaneous translation has been chosen for convenience and because it is more natural - quite apart from saving time.

The programme has been set up in advance and the questions will come in three forms by way of insurance in view of the vagaries of the Soviet phone system:

- questions submitted in advance;
- questions phoned in advance and identified as pre-recorded when put to you on the air; and
- live, phone-in questions.

SPEAK

SLOWLY

The sort of questions which the BBC say are likely to emerge are as follows:

- what is the Prime Minister's reaction to the recent Soviet Party Conference?
- what does the Prime Minister think of perestroika and glasnost and of the changes taking place in Soviet society?
- what does the Prime Minister think of environmental pollution? (This is a considerable Russian preoccupation as uncontrolled use of water resources and toxic emissions are causing major problems.)
- what does the Prime Minister think of nuclear power and the risks of a Chernobyl disaster?
- how does the Prime Minister react to questions of nationality, eg in Armenia and Azerbaijan?
- what does the Prime Minister think of Jewish refuseniks?
- how does the Prime Minister get on with Mr Gorbachev and what does she think of Raisa?
- what are the Prime Minister's views on East-West relations generally and on arms control?
- finally, it is hoped that there will be some lighter questions, for example about life at No 10.

Charles Powell and I have arranged to brief you from about 4pm onwards about these and any other questions of which we get notice.

Mechanics

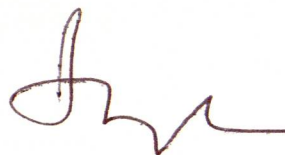
John Tusa will meet you on arrival at Bush House - I suggest by 4.50pm at the latest. You will go straight to the studios. There will be a photocall there before the programme starts because this is seen as a big news event in its own right.

Nedra Tustalova  
Red Army Chow

Prof Vanchuk  
Agar hayyan

Because of this, the BBC "PM" programme will possibly slot an extract of the phone-in into their programme which runs from 5pm.

Content?

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Bernard Ingham', written in a cursive style.

BERNARD INGHAM

8 July 1988

Schedule

- ① ~~A~~ Conference
- ② Reds Brown

Attache

③

Loop - Vijayarath

Prathy - Comdros.

Removal of Tanks

Not to justify and

Serial emphasis

Vietnam

London Group

London

Political crisis

Macroe

Tibet

The Absolut

The Coventry

Sunny clear sky

1-bird group

Woke -  
-

Yellow

Seize

Photos - Have Right

Psychology word - Curve

walk ( speech )



Lennyed -

Concise

2nd level - help

Lithuanian -

1.5ml

Phile -

Answer n



Rem  
They will  
RM

C. Powell  
I am attracted by this.  
Are you?

Belt  
reply please.  
Richard McCarty  
257 2877

Telephone:  
01-257 2057/2618

Telex:  
265781

BUSH HOUSE,  
PO BOX 76, STRAND,  
LONDON WC2B 4PH

257 2208  
Mina Hoxworth  
5 pm 11k  
5 pm 11k

Mr. Hoxworth  
I think it's an  
imaginative idea & would  
support it. But finding  
time will be difficult between now &  
early July. cp.

from the Managing Director, External Broadcasting

19th May 1988

When we met over lunch I think I raised informally the question of the Prime Minister's interest in taking part in a live phone-in to the Soviet Union on the BBC Russian Service. Since we spoke Mike Bates indicated a general wish to pursue the matter further and this is what I am now doing.

First, a word about the Russian Service itself. Since January 1987 it has operated without jamming by the Soviet authorities. Its estimated audience is 18 million who listen regularly at least once a week. We know that many more use western broadcasts as a way of checking up on the veracity of even the recently improved Soviet media.

Second, timing. It seems to me that a phone-in with the Prime Minister within, say, three weeks of the Moscow summit would give Russian listeners the opportunity to question her about the British and West European assessments of the summit and the evolving international outlook in its aftermath. I do not need to tell you of the reputation the Prime Minister enjoys in the Soviet Union.

Third, the method. I suggest a 60 minute phone-in to be broadcast live at 1800 hours London time. This falls at 2100 Moscow time, a good time for listening. The Prime Minister would have a simultaneous translation of the questions in her ear, and a simultaneous translation of her answers would be broadcast. Her voice would of course be heard in full at the start of each answer and lightly faded under during the translation. I propose simultaneous translation because it is easier to handle, more natural and of course saves a great deal of broadcast time.

Fourth, questions. They would come in three forms. Questions submitted by letter in advance; questions phoned in advance, recorded and played on air (but clearly identified as pre-recorded questions); live phone-in questions. Given the vagaries of the Soviet phone system and the limited number of direct-dial telephones, it is only prudent to give ourselves three ways of receiving authentic questions from the Soviet public. However the questions come, the Prime Minister would be talking directly to the Soviet people and answering their questions.

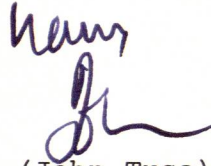
The programme would be conducted by Diran Meghreblian, one of our most experienced journalists, who accompanied the Prime Minister on her Moscow trip last year.

6th July

FRIDAY  
25 July  
4 pm

2.  
19th May 1988.  
Bernard Ingham, Esq.

I do hope that we can agree on a venture on these lines.  
Please do not hesitate to ask for more information or to raise  
any problems of which we may not have thought.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Tusa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(John Tusa)

Bernard Ingham, Esq.,  
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London.  
SW1A.