

PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEWS WITH IZVESTIYA AND SOVIET TELEVISION

You have agreed to give interviews tomorrow to the Editor-in-Chief of Izvestiya, Mr I D Laptev, followed by Vsevelod Shishkovsky of Soviet Television. The latter will not be accompanied by a correspondent from Moscow, as originally envisaged.

One hour fifteen minutes has been set aside. The make-up lady will be waiting for you at 3.45. Thereafter I suggest that you take on Izvestiya first for 40 minutes and then the television interview for 15-20 minutes.

Charles has already submitted briefing on the Izvestiya interview. The television interview will cover the same kind of ground.

Sarah Charman will be present to start with. I shall take over later. COI will record.

Content to use the study for Izvestiya and the White Room for the television interview?

Two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is 'Michael Bates' and the second is 'Leslie'.

MICHAEL BATES
Press Office
21 March 1989



John
Tommy

cc Press Office
PC

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 March 1989

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Interview with Izvestia

I enclose a letter from Mr Laptev, Editor in Chief of Izvestia, to the Prime Minister with which he encloses a series of questions which he wishes to put to her during the interview on 22 March.

We shall be sending you briefing to cover these and other questions nearer the time. We shall also arrange for an interpreter to be present during the interview.

Yours ever,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

To: The Prime Minister of Great Britain

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher

Dear Madam Prime Minister,

I was pleased to receive your letter with the news that you had kindly agreed to give an interview to "Izvestiya". Please accept my warmest thanks for the chance to meet and talk with you on 22 March. I am convinced that the readers of our newspaper will pay great attention to your opinions, Madam Prime Minister, on a range of international questions, which I enclose with this letter.

With your permission, Madam Prime Minister, I would like to discuss three or four further questions in the course of our talk.

Please accept my sincere wishes for your health and happiness.

With great respect,

(signed)

I. D. LAPTEV

Editor in Chief



QUESTIONS

1. Prime Minister, may I ask you first of all to characterise and comment on the main changes in the international situation over the last three or four years. What, in your view, are the underlying impulses and reasons for these changes?

2. We, in the Soviet Union, listened attentively to your assessment of the proposals contained in Mr Gorbachev's speech at the UN. It seems to us that the "model for the world of the future" outlined in these proposals was close to your own ideas. Where do you see the areas of concordance and divergence in the philosophical approaches of our two countries toward shaping such a world? What role do you think New Political Thinking can play in this process?

3. Many political pundits predicted that Europe would become 'outmoded' as a political centre. Today's reality has shown the opposite. As in the past, Europe in many areas is determining the pace of international relations and giving a practical example in the solution of a series of complex problems. Prime Minister, how do you see the future of Europe? In your view, how strong are its unifying principles, which could open up constructive routes towards building the Common European Home?

4. It would not be an exaggeration to regard your meeting with Mr Gorbachev at Chequers in December 1984 as opening a new phase in Anglo-Soviet relations. Today these consist of a rapidly developing, substantive package, which has a perceptible effect on any changes in the situation in Europe and the world. Mrs Thatcher, could you tell us what played the decisive part in your decision to pursue such abrupt changes in relations with the Soviet Union? How do you assess their state today, and their prospects?



5. In your statements, you have supported Mr Gorbachev's idea of the primacy of common human values in relations between states, noting that such an approach strengthens international confidence and predictability of policy. How do you assess the putting of this idea into practice, and what do you think needs to be done to develop international co-operation to defend and strengthen such values?

6. Recently we have seen more signs of burgeoning practical co-operation between the USSR and Britain in solving a number of international problems, bearing both on the disarmament field and on the solution of chronic regional conflicts. Prime Minister, in what directions do you see such co-operation growing and will it spread to new areas?

7. Today we have dozens of Joint Ventures with Western firms operating in the Soviet Union, and, it seems, quite successfully too. Their number is likely to increase several times over in the near future. However, British industrialists and financiers are showing distinct hesitation in this area. What is the reason, do you think? And one last question: what would be your attitude to a review of the COCOM regulations and lists in favour of greater liberalisation of trade and economic relations with the USSR? What will be your position?

- 1. MR INGHAM
- 2. MR POWELL
- 3. PRIME MINISTER

I hope you will agree to tag this on to the Izvestiya interview for 14/3

make-up 3.45

INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET TELEVISION

The Soviet Television London correspondent, Vsevelod Shishkovsky, who has interviewed you 2-3 times over the last 18 months, has asked if you could give a brief interview in advance of Mr Gorbachev's visit. He would probably be accompanied by the veteran Soviet commentator, Valentin Zorin.

He has in mind around a 15-20 minute interview. Given his usual no-fuss approach, it could perhaps be tacked on to the interview you have agreed to give to Izvestiya, for which an hour has been set aside next Wednesday.

Alternatively, it could probably be fitted in 2-3 days before Mr Gorbachev's arrival.

Agree to:

- a) brief interview after Izvestiya next Wednesday?
- b) interview 2-3 days before Mr Gorbachev's arrival?
- c) decline the request?

*Yes
not*

Michael Bates

MICHAEL BATES
PRESS OFFICE
14/3/89