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Soviet  
Union

20 October 1980

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 17 October and has agreed to receive the Soviet Ambassador if he seeks a farewell call.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Michael Arthur, Esq.,  
Lord Privy Seal's Office.

MPM



*Prime Minister*  
 Agree to see  
 Lunkov if he asks  
 for a farewell call?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 October 1980

*Den Mitchell*

*MAP*  
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The Soviet Ambassador called on the Lord Privy Seal on 13 October to say that he would shortly be leaving London on transfer to another (unspecified) European capital. He has been here over seven years. He thought that his date of departure might be 10 or 11 November. The Soviet Government are proposing that he be succeeded by Victor Ivanovich Popov, at present Rector of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Academy. This is under consideration.

Although he did not mention the matter on 13 October, it seems possible that Mr Lunkov will seek a farewell call on the Prime Minister. If so, the Lord Privy Seal's advice would be that the Prime Minister should agree to see Mr Lunkov if she can - this will ensure that he returns to Moscow with a clear message given to him at the highest level about our view of Anglo-Soviet and East-West relations. We are planning that Lord Carrington or Sir Ian Gilmour should also see Mr Lunkov before he leaves. It is the tradition that an FCO Minister should host a farewell lunch, but the objective would be to get across points of substance.

Mr Lunkov may also seek calls on Ministers in other departments. If he does, Sir Ian Gilmour's view is that it would be appropriate for Mr Lunkov to be received by the Minister for Trade as British Co-chairman of the Anglo-Soviet Joint Commission, but that there should be no need for him to be seen by other Ministers whose departments do not have substantial dealing with the Soviet Embassy.

/I am

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
 10 Downing Street

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I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretaries of State for Trade, the Environment, Social Services, Energy, and Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

*Yours ever*

*Michael Arthur*

M A Arthur  
Private Secretary to the  
Lord Privy Seal

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