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Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

Soviet Union

*B/F with any
comments from FCO..*

16 February 1981

attached

The Chief Whip has seen a copy of Robin Birch's letter of 13 February enclosing a note of the discussion between the Chancellor of the Duchy and the Soviet Ambassador on 13 February.

He has commented: "We must not be seen either in the Party or in the country to be giving a green light to Parliamentary visits. There is an Anglo-USSR group which is surely enough of a base for meeting prominent Conservatives."

I am sending copies of this letter to Michael Alexander (No 10), George Walden (FCO), Brian Norbury (MOD) and David Wright (Cabinet Office)..

(M MACLEAN)

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with compliments

Private Secretary to

CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER

~~and MINISTER FOR THE ARTS~~

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Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1

13th February 1981

*Le
Pant*

Dear George,

As you may know, the Chancellor of the Duchy this morning received the Soviet Ambassador, Mr Popov, for a courtesy call. There was in the course of the meeting, which lasted for about three quarters of an hour, some substantive discussion on various issues and I thought that you would wish to have the enclosed note of the proceedings.

You will see that the Chancellor has undertaken to consider some requests by the Soviet Ambassador and he will be in touch with colleagues as appropriate about how he should respond.

I am sending copies of this letter and of the enclosure to Michael Alexander at 10 Downing Street, to Brian Norbury at the Ministry of Defence and Murdo Maclean at 12 Downing Street, also to David Wright, Cabinet Office.

Yours ever,

Robin

R A BIRCH

G G H Walden Esq
Private Secretary to
The Secretary of State
for Foreign and Commonwealth
Affairs
Whitehall
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