

CONFIDENTIAL Foreign Policy *da*



*cc: Ho  
Ld. Chanc.  
Hunt  
MOD  
Ld. Pres.*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 October 1982

*Ld. Privy Seal  
Ch. Sec. Home  
Trade + Co*

*Dear Roger,*

Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

The Prime Minister has seen the minute of 27 September by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on this subject.

She would like to discuss the contents of the minute and the attached papers with Mr. Pym and has asked that meanwhile no further action should be taken.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of OD and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever  
John Gales*

Roger Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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*JSG*

①.



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Eastern Europe and the

Soviet Union.

If you have no objection, I  
propose to write to the F.K.O.  
as in the attached letter.

A.S.C. <sup>1.</sup>/<sub>10</sub>

I would prefer  
this not to go out but  
that no further action  
be taken until the F-5  
has come and had  
- talk with  
me not



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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

1 October 1982

EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION

The Prime Minister has seen the minute of 27 September by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

Mrs. Thatcher considers that the important changes in policy which are proposed should be discussed in OD before any final decisions are taken. She has commented that the priority in East/West relations at present should be to secure a good Summit meeting between President Reagan and Mr. Brezhnev. This has considerable importance in the context of the various arms control talks. On the other hand, the Prime Minister believes that direct and regular visits by British Ministers and officials to the Soviet Union would be interpreted as a significant change of policy amounting to acceptance of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. She also takes the view that the renewal of cultural contacts with the Soviet Union will be of benefit to the Russians rather than to this country. She has no objection, however, to the promotion of normal trade contacts with the Soviet Union since trade sanctions have been shown to have little value.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of OD, and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Roger Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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