

SUBJECT cc Masker



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Security PM's Mtg's with
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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 April 1989

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EXPULSION OF MEMBERS OF THE
SOVIET AND CZECH EMBASSIES

The Prime Minister talked to the Director-General of the Security Service this evening about the proposed expulsion of members of the Soviet Embassy.

The Director-General confirmed that the level of KGB and GRU activity remained high and the case for expulsions remained as strong as ever. In addition, there was evidence, which would shortly be submitted to the Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary, of unacceptable activity by Czech intelligence in the United Kingdom. The Security Service would be recommending the expulsion of a number of members of the Czech Embassy.

The Prime Minister recalled that she had agreed to action against the Soviet Embassy some 4 to 6 weeks after Mr. Gorbachev's visit to the United Kingdom. There could be distinct advantages to taking action against the Czech Embassy at the same time, to avoid two separate incidents. In deciding the precise timing we should have regard to other international events. It would be desirable to act before the NATO Summit, to show that our resolve had not weakened. Another consideration was the timing of Mr. Gorbachev's visit to the FRG: action by us on the eve of this visit might convey a useful message. She would like to see the arguments set out. The Director-General made the point that his Service would,

The Prime Minister confirmed her preference for handling the expulsions as discreetly as possible, so that the Russians were at least given the option of avoiding public recrimination and a major row in our relations. Again, she would like to see recommendations on how this might be achieved.

I am copying this letter to Philip Mawer (Home Office)
and to the Director-General of the Security Service.

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C. D. POWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRET AND PERSONAL