

CONFIDENTIAL

copy



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 February 1990

Dear Charles,

Mr. Hagan

You will wish to be aware of this.

Soviet Ceilings

You will be aware from telegrams that agreement has been reached with the Russians. The ceilings are to remain at 205 both in Moscow and in London. Local staff are excluded. *COP 2/2*
Journalists are excluded from the ceiling on the explicit understanding that the Russians will not increase their numbers of journalists in London by more than 30% (four journalists) in the next 18 months and will move slowly to fill the places under the ceiling, not reaching the full 205 in less than two years.

The agreement includes a commitment on both sides to announce that agreement has been reached to work towards a state of Anglo-Soviet relations in which restrictions on numbers will no longer be necessary. To help forestall an upsurge of renewed "spy story" interest, we suggested to the Russians that these announcements should be made on some wider bilateral occasion, such as Mr Waldegrave's visit last week or the Foreign Secretary's bilateral meeting with Mr Shevardnadze in Ottawa on 12/13 February. The Russians have, however, insisted on making their statement today.
/ I enclose the text. It is somewhat tendentious but we thought it preferable to concentrate on being quite clear in our own
/ press briefing. I enclose a copy of the line which is being taken by the Foreign Office News Department. News Department are briefing editors in the hope that they will welcome the practical implications for their operations.

Jans
Stephen Wall
(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

301639Z

REFERRED SIMON HEMANS SOVIET DEPT FOR DIST ADVICE

LNMDAN 9214 MXHPAN 1264

CONFIDENTIAL

DD 301700Z FCOLN

FM MOSCO TO FCOLN

301632Z JAN

GRS 390

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MOSCOW

TO DESKBY 301700Z FCO

TELNO 146

DF 301632Z JANUARY 90

PERSONAL FOR HEMANS, SOVIET DEPT
FROM ACTING HEAD OF POLITICAL SECTION
MIPT: CEILINGS

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TEXT OF SOVIET STATEMENT, TO BE MADE AT THE
MFA PRESS CONFERENCE
BEGINS

'THE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH ADOPTED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND GREAT
BRITAIN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS HAS MADE IT
POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE MANY PROBLEMS, SOME LONG TERM, WHICH WERE THE
INHERITANCE OF THE PERIOD OF CONFRONTATION AND THE COLD WAR. NEW
POLITICAL THINKING, BROADENING TRUST AND COOPERATION HAVE CREATED THE
PRE-CONDITIONS FOR THE NORMALISATION EVEN OF THE BILATERAL ISSUE OF
PLACING LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBERS OF STAFF EMPLOYED IN ORGANISATIONS
AND REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES OF ONE SIDE ON THE TERRITORY OF THE OTHER.
'ONE CAN RECALL THAT THE PRACTICE OF IMPOSING A QUOTA WAS INTRODUCED
UNILATERALLY BY THE BRITISH SIDE IN 1968 (SIC) AS A POLITICAL
GESTURE. UP TILL NOW THE NUMBER OF SOVIET WORKERS IN BRITAIN HAS
BEEN LIMITED BY THE QUOTA TO 205. IN MAY 1989 THE SOVIET SIDE,
ACTING ON THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL TREATMENT, IMPOSED ANALOGOUS LIMITS
AS REGARDS BRITISH STAFF. AS A RESULT OF THE EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY
THE TWO SIDES, INCLUDING AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL, AGREEMENT WAS
REACHED THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF QUOTAS, IMPOSED BY ONE SIDE ON THE
OTHER, IS CONTRADICTORY TO THE ESSENCE OF THE POSITIVE PROCESSES
UNDER WAY IN SOVIET/BRITISH RELATIONS.

'NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ALLOWED THE TWO SIDES TO WORK OUT A NEW APPROACH
TO THE ISSUE OF THE NUMBER OF WORKERS IN SOVIET ORGANISATIONS AND
REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES IN LONDON AND OF BRITONS IN MOSCOW. IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THIS, THE SIDES HAVE REJECTED THE IMPOSITION OF QUOTA
LIMITS ON EACH OTHER AND AGREED TO PRACTICE VOLUNTARY
SELF-LIMITATION, WHICH WILL BE AT THE PRESENT LEVEL. TAKING ACCOUNT
OF THIS, THE SOVIET SIDE HAS EXPRESSED ITS READINESS TO PROCEED ON A
STEP BY STEP BASIS TOWARD THE COMPLETE REMOVAL OF SELF-LIMITATION ON
THE NUMBERS OF STAFF OF REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES AND ORGANISATIONS OF
EACH SIDE ON THE OTHER'S TERRITORY. IT IS THEREFORE EXPECTED THAT
THE BRITISH SIDE WILL WORK IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

'THE AGREEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN REACHED IS REGARDED IN THE SOVIET
FOREIGN MINISTRY AS HAVING GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, AND OPENING UP
POSITIVE PROSPECTS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET/BRITISH
RELATIONS.' ENDS

BRAITHWAITE

YYYY

CEILINGS: LINE TO TAKE FOR NEWS DEPARTMENT

- Have been asked a number of times if progress made at official level talks on ceilings. Can tell you that we have now agreed to work towards a state of relations where limitations will no longer be necessary. For the moment each side will keep its own numbers within agreed overall limits. A review of progress will be held at the right time.

In response to questions:

- Journalists?

We know of no difficulties being placed in the way of British media seeking accreditation. Nor do we expect any. We have been particularly concerned to ensure that no such difficulties would be encountered.

- Embassy/businessmen cutting numbers?

We do not foresee problems.

- Business expansion?

We do not expect any administrative obstacles.

- Local staff included?

The arrangement is strictly reciprocal. Local staff are not included either in London or in Moscow.

Off the record briefing for selected correspondents

- Have the ceilings been changed?

Confirm that journalists, subject to the usual security considerations, would no longer be constrained by limitations.

- Why the review?

The review, after an extended trial period, would allow either side to end the agreement, continue it, or negotiate further changes depending on experience.

