

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

6 February 1990

VISIT TO MOSCOW

As I mentioned to you at your Chequers meeting on 27 January, I shall be visiting Moscow from 19-23 February at our Ambassador's invitation. The visit will be in my capacity as your Foreign Affairs Adviser, though we must expect the Russians to be well aware of my intelligence function.

The object is to inform myself on the situation and on Soviet policies internal and external, also to assist the Ambassador's access to the Soviet machine at senior level. I hope to see Chernayev, Gorbachev's adviser, and other senior Soviet officials.

It would help the visit and access enormously if we could tell the Russians that you were interested in the visit and hoped that a successful programme could be arranged. This would only need a word on the telephone from Charles to the Soviet Embassy.

If in addition there was any message you wished me to convey, I should of course be happy to do so. You felt at Chequers we needed to be in close touch with the Russians on Germany. Since then we have had a message from Gorbachev on the subject, to which you will want to reply. One channel would be Medvedev, who is calling on Wednesday, though Rodric Braithwaite doubts that that would be the right channel. But however that is decided Germany will remain an immensely important issue, on which we shall want to maintain close contact. Depending on the result, you may also wish to consider a message to Gorbachev on the outcome of the Plenum.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Finally, you will no doubt tell me if there are any particular themes you wish me to emphasise in my contacts, or any particular lines of enquiry that you would like to pursue.



PERCY CRADOCK

CONFIDENTIAL