

PRIME MINISTER

of 6/2/90

MR. GORBACHEV'S MESSAGE

Mr. Medvedev made a particular point of telling us today that the last paragraph of Mr. Gorbachev's message about closer dialogue had been added personally by Mr. Gorbachev himself. He thought you would want to know this when it came to a reply. I attach a copy of the message.

Liz Lambert

PP

CHARLES POWELL

8 February 1990

HER EXCELLENCY
MRS. MARGARET THATCHER,
PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

I would like to continue our exchange of opinions with you on topical issues. The Soviet leadership highly values our political dialogue. Let me note with gratitude that I feel your understanding and support in difficult situations which sometimes emerge in our country in the process of perestroika, including the events in Azerbaijan and Armenia. Mr. Medvedev will tell you about developments here, as well as about the plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee which has just concluded its work; he will also answer the questions that you might have.

I would like to stress on my part that mutual understanding and interaction between the Soviet Union and Great Britain are at present becoming even more important and without exaggeration central for resolving major international issues. We both agree that now it is especially crucial not to rush events, to prevent the rise or spread of crisis situations, to promote the process of renewal in Europe in the conditions of stability. I believe both of us realize that this should be the objective that all responsible politicians must pursue.

One could probably say that the German-German affairs are gaining center stage. The developments in this area prompted me to send letters devoted to this subject to you, as well as to President Bush and President Mitterrand. So, you are aware of our latest opinions and assessments.

I will repeat just one point which in my view is of principal importance. It is possible to overcome the division of Germany only having first overcome the division of Europe. These two processes should be synchronised, and, of course, it is necessary during all phases to meticulously take into account the already existing military-political realities, the balance of forces in Europe, the security interests of all countries in the region. In practical terms all these issues have to be discussed and agreed on among the European countries. I believe that the proposed summit meeting of the 35 CSCE participants should become a good forum for such discussions. Let me express here my satisfaction over your support in principle of the idea of convening such a meeting, provided it is carefully prepared.

It is extremely useful to confer on all these issues on a bilateral basis. You and I could come to an agreement that during Foreign Secretary Hurd's visit to Moscow next April our Ministers devote a considerable part of their discussions to the European and German-German affairs.

On the whole one cannot help admitting that challenges and dangers to stability in Europe are real. But the forces in Europe whose actions are based on reason, responsibility and a sense of perspective also possess considerable political weight. Time has shown just how foresighted we were when five years ago we embarked on the road of rethinking both our fundamental philosophical approaches and practical policies. As a result of our joint intensive work for all these years we have been able to transform the Soviet-British dialogue into an influential and stabilizing component of international relations.

The level and scope of political interaction between our two countries testify, as I see it, to the possibility of moving the Soviet-British relations into a phase of partnership as regards a number of key international problems. I would like to build our dialogue upon this focal thought.

Let me take the opportunity to convey to you and Mr. Thatcher Mrs. Gorbachev's and my best wishes.

Sincerely,

M. GORBACHEV

Kremlin, Moscow
February 6, 1990