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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 March 1990

Dear Charles,

Message from the Prime Minister to President Gorbachev

With your letter of 7 February, you sent us a copy of the message from Mr Gorbachev which Mr Medvedev handed over during his meeting with the Prime Minister.

The Foreign Secretary believes that a reply from the Prime Minister to Mr Gorbachev would now be useful. A draft is enclosed. It could emphasise our support for the proposal to set up a group of Six, and restate the importance of having a unified Germany in NATO.

This would also be a good moment for the Prime Minister to send a broader message of support since Mr Gorbachev has - with characteristic skill - carried through the Supreme Soviet his proposal to establish a new executive Presidency.

We have been told that Mr Gorbachev himself drafted the passage at the end of his letter in which he spoke in very positive terms about the new phase of the Soviet-British "partnership".

Yours,
Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT GORBACHEV

*Brought
with
him*

Thank you for the message which you sent through Mr Medvedev. I was very glad to meet him. We had a long talk about Germany and the results of the Plenary meeting of the Central Committee from which he had just come. He and his team had a full programme of contacts with our Parliamentarians, in Westminster and in constituencies in Wales, and they met business leaders in the City of London. We would like to see these contacts develop into practical cooperation, and shall be putting some ideas forward through your Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

*between
us*

entirely share your views
I warmly endorse your remarks about the importance of our dialogue. At a time of great change in Europe, which owes a lot to your own far-sighted and courageous programme in the Soviet Union, it is vital that we should together address the key issues of security. *Let us stand*

*will
happen,
&
probably
soon.*

stay close closely in touch.
I appreciate especially the frankness of our dialogue on Germany. Now it is clear that unification is approaching, the most important thing is to get the security arrangements right, to protect the legitimate interests of all concerned and ensure that unification does not jeopardise stability. So I was glad that Mr Shevardnadze was able to agree in Ottawa to the establishment of the group of six, to provide us with a way of doing that.

There will be a great deal to discuss: what security arrangements would be appropriate after the unification of Germany, including perhaps transitional arrangements for Soviet troops on the territory of the present GDR, Berlin, and borders - though on the last the main negotiations must be between the Germans and those with whom they share borders, particularly the Poles. We shall want to explain to you again why we think it is important for stability that a unified Germany should be in NATO.

*discuss
over
include:*

W11ABX/1

*by the border confined by a
Treaty or other legal binding instrument.*

Mr Medvedev gave me a full briefing on developments at the Plenum. I was struck by the determination which you have shown to accelerate momentum towards a more open and pluralistic democracy. You continue to have my full and enthusiastic support. I have been following closely the debate in the Supreme Soviet about the establishment of an executive Presidency.

As the last decade of the 20th century opens, I am most encouraged that we are at long last able to shed the attitudes and suspicions which have characterised Anglo-Soviet relations for so long. We share many common interests, both in Europe and wider afield. Our peoples have shown how ready they are to cooperate in many diverse areas, and how interested they are to learn about our different heritages and ways of life. The pre-conditions for fruitful partnership are present in full measure. This is the standpoint from which we shall view the future. From your message it would seem that our views are closer

Denis and I send our warm good wishes to you and Mrs Gorbachev.

" I am of course looking forward to your visit in June. But a great deal is likely to happen before then, and I hope that we can stay very much closer in touch through these means, or more directly if appropriate.