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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 November 1982



Prime Minister

A J C 30/11

*Dear John*

*MS*

V A Chernov

In my letter of 29 November I recorded the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's decision to expel Captain A P Zotov, the Russian Naval Attache.

Mr Pym has now decided that we should expel another Russian, V A Chernov, a translator at the headquarters of the International Wheat Council (IWC) in London. Chernov, an identified KGB officer, has been very active in attempting to recruit agents and to obtain political and economic information in a clandestine manner. There are some questions relevant to Chernov's status as an official of the IWC which will require answers before we inform the Executive Secretary of the IWC that Chernov's continued presence is unacceptable for security reasons and ask him to arrange for his removal; and there may be tactical advantage in allowing a little time between this expulsion and that of Zotov. But action will be taken as soon as our lines are clear. Retaliation seems less likely in Chernov's case than in that of Zotov because of his lower status and because there is no close British equivalent in Moscow. The expulsion would be announced in due course in the form of a written Parliamentary Answer.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Halliday (Home Office), Robert Lawson (MAFF) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours ever,*  
*J*

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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30 NOV 1982

