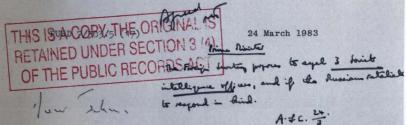


## Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SWIA 2AH



## Expulsion of Three Soviet Intelligence Officers

On the recommendation of the Security Service, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has agreed that we should expel three Soviet intelligence officers. They are Colonel G A Primakov, Assistant Air Attache (GRU); S V Ivanov, Scientific Attache (GRU); and I V Titov, London correspondent of the Soviet magazine 'New Times' (KGB).

All three have been actively involved either in running agents in this country or in attempts to recruit them.

Ivanov has used clandestine techniques in seeking information and his pattern of behaviour suggests agent-running or other clandestine activity.

Titov is in a different category. He has been detected only in attempting to recruit but his responsibilities as Head of the PR Line of the KGB in London limit his activities outside the Embassy and make him a difficult target. There is no doubt that his presence in the UK is harmful to our national interests and that his removal would disrupt KGB activities here. He is not a diplomat and is therefore the responsibility of the Home Secretary. Mr Whitelaw has, however, agreed that in the circumstances action against all three should be taken by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Action will be taken on Wednesday 30 March, and we intend to announce the expulsions on the same day.

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There is obviously a danger that the Russians will retaliate. The best way to prevent this will be to make it clear to them that if they do, we shall respond in kind. The result could be a series of counter-retaliations which could hamper British activity in Moscow,

And if it led to the expulsion of British journalists from Moscow, we should no doubt face criticism from the media for mishandling the affair. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary nevertheless believes that it is essential, in the interests of deterring retaliation by the Russians, to take this line, and to carry out the threat if necessary.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), Tony Rawsthorne (Home Office) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

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OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

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(R B Bone) Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq 10 Downing Street



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## 10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 March, 1983

## Expulsion of Three Soviet Intelligence Officers

Thank you for your letter of 24 March. The Prime Minister has noted that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has agreed that three Soviet intelligence officers should be expelled and that, if the Russians retaliate, we should respond in kind.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), Tony Rawsthorne (Home Office) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A. J. COLES

R. B. Bone, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRET