



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

To be aware.

London SW1A 2AH

A. J. C. 49.
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19 January 1984

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Dear John,

Sixtieth Anniversary of the Establishment of
Anglo-Soviet Diplomatic Relations

You may like a note of the way in which we propose to mark the above anniversary.

The anniversary falls on 2 February. The Foreign Secretary has decided that it would be appropriate to exchange messages with Mr Gromyko (our text enclosed) and for Sir I Sutherland to hold a reception in Moscow. The Soviet Ambassador will give a similar reception in London, at which our intention is that Ministerial attendance should be at a level comparable to Soviet Ministerial attendance in Moscow. (Present indications are that Mr Gromyko will not attend our reception in Moscow, but be represented by a Deputy Foreign Minister, but there may be representation from the Council of Ministers.)

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary in 1974, the then Prime Minister sent a message and attended the Soviet Ambassador's reception. Sir Geoffrey does not, however, think this would be appropriate for the sixtieth anniversary.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Secretary of State

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:
Mr Gromyko

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

I send you my personal greetings and those of Her Majesty's Government on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

CAVEAT.....

I take this opportunity both to acknowledge the lasting significance of this relationship and to express to you the genuine desire of Her Majesty's Government to develop relations between our countries in the future with the aim of increasing our mutual understanding of each others concerns and interests. On this basis we can hope to build a relationship - politically, economically and in other areas - which will contribute to a safer and more prosperous world, to the common benefit of the British and Soviet peoples and people everywhere.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

MJ

20 January 1984

Sixtieth Anniversary of the Establishment
of Anglo-Soviet Diplomatic Relations

The Prime Minister has noted the contents
of your letter of 19 January.

AJC

Peter Ricketts Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

D&G

Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

A. S. C. 1/2

1 February 1984

(Info ^{min} ^{1/2} ^{1/2} ^{1/2} - spare copy to be taken to Hungary please).

John John,

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60th Anniversary of Anglo/Soviet Diplomatic Relations:

Exchange of Messages

We sent you under cover of Peter Ricketts' letter of 18 January the text of Sir Geoffrey Howe's message to Mr Gromyko on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary.

We have now received an advance copy of the return message from the Russians. In accordance with the recent Soviet practice it is from the Foreign Ministry collectively rather than from Mr Gromyko. But it is clearly a carefully considered message, reasonable and constructive in tone, and much in tune with recent calls by the Prime Minister for a realistic and sensible dialogue with the Soviet Union.

It is intended that both messages will be made public in London and Moscow on 2 February, the day of the anniversary.

[Handwritten signature]

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Research Department translation

THE RT HON SIR GEOFFREY HOWE MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS
LONDON

Sixty years ago, on February 2, 1924, diplomatic relations were established between the Soviet Union and Great Britain. The history of [the] Soviet-British relations since then has witnessed many examples of fruitful and mutually advantageous cooperation between the peoples of our two states, which has brought undoubted benefit also to the cause of European and universal peace. A significant, indeed, one might say, historic landmark in this cooperation was our joint struggle against the fascist aggressors during World War II.

Today, in circumstances of increased international tension, especially on the European continent, all states are required to take a realistic approach and concrete measures leading to the elimination of the threat of war and to the improvement of the international situation. The positive development of relations between the Soviet Union and Great Britain can be a significant contribution to the solution of these problems. Realism and goodwill, consideration of each other's legitimate interests, and the entire positive experience accumulated in Soviet-British relations, can serve as a sound basis for this.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR

1st February 1984

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