

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

SECRET



HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

7 September 1984

Dear Charles,

PM informed  
orally.

COPI 7/4

Thank you for your letter of 5 September.

The Home Secretary and Sir Geoffrey Howe are agreed that the balance of advantage lies in prompting a press story about Bitov's departure in advance of publicity from outside sources. Officials have accordingly today considered how this might best be done. A line is being prepared which will be given to the "Daily Telegraph" at the beginning of next week; it is expected that an article will appear on Tuesday or Wednesday. Departmental press officers have been provided with briefing to respond to any subsequent enquiries.

An official of the Soviet Department of the F.C.O. will call in the Soviet Consul on 10 September to enquire if they know the whereabouts of Bitov. We shall keep you informed of any developments, and send you a copy of the line we give to the "Daily Telegraph".

Copies of this letter go to Len Appleyard and Richard Hatfield.

Yours sincerely,  
H H Taylor

H H TAYLOR

C D Powell, Esq.

SECRET