

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. *T46A/85*

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FROM FCO 111857Z MAR 85

TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW

TELEGRAM NUMBER 243 OF 11 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO

DEATH OF PRESIDENT CHERNENKO: MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE  
PRIME MINISTER TO MR GORBACHEV

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO  
MR GORBACHEV AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

BEGINS.

I SEND YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ELECTION AS GENERAL  
SECRETARY OF THE CPSU. I VALUED OUR MEETING LAST DECEMBER WHICH  
CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING CLOSER CONTACTS  
BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES WITH THE AIM OF BUILDING CONFIDENCE BETWEEN  
EAST AND WEST AND TACKLING THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS THAT FACE  
US.

ENDS

2. PLEASE REPORT BY FLASH TELEGRAM AS SOON AS MESSAGE HAS BEEN  
DELIVERED. THE TEXT WILL THEN BE RELEASED TO THE PRESS.

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[Signature]

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

11 March 1985

DEATH OF PRESIDENT CHERNENKO

Thank you for your letter of 11 March enclosing a draft message of congratulation from the Prime Minister to Mr Gorbachev on his election as General Secretary.

The Prime Minister has approved the message which may now be despatched.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

C D POWELL

Len Appleyard Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 March 1985

*Dear Charles,*

Death of President Chernenko

It has now been announced that Gorbachev is to succeed Chernenko as the next General Secretary of the CPSU.

/ I enclose a draft public message of congratulation for the Prime Minister's consideration.

We will let you have later some briefing for the visit, together with the latest information on who will be attending from our closest allies. Our Embassy in Washington has just rung to say that they have been told that Vice President Bush and Mr Shultz will be representing the US. We have been asked to treat this information as confidential until it is released either later today or first thing tomorrow in Washington.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,*

*Len Appleyard*

(L V Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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DEATH OF MR CHERNENKO: DRAFT PUBLIC MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION  
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR GORBACHEV

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I send you my congratulations on your election as General Secretary of the CPSU. I valued our meeting last December, which contributed to the process of establishing closer contacts between our countries with the aim of building confidence between East and West and tackling the most important problems that face us.

*M. Thatcher*