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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 May 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. TP1A/85

Dear Mr. Gorbachev.

On this 40th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe, it is right that we should look back and pay tribute with pride and thankfulness for the heroism of those in both our countries who fought in a common cause, and with grief for the terrible sufferings involved. We in Britain re-dedicate ourselves on this occasion to the values of freedom with justice for which victory was won.

The experience of these 40 years points to the vital importance of our efforts to work patiently and realistically for better understanding and co-operation between our two countries and peoples, acknowledging our mutual desire for security and lasting peace.

I take the opportunity of this anniversary day to send you and the Soviet people my best wishes.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Mr. M. S. Gorbachev

CDP (4)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*And the hand-written
good wishes
MB*

23 May 1985

Prime Minister

*We shall have
to remember that they
will be studying the
flourish on your signature!
CDP
23/5*

Dear Charles,

40th Anniversary of VE Day: Message from Mr Gorbachev

The Soviet Embassy have handed to us the top signed copy of Mr Gorbachev's letter to the Prime Minister on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary. It is identical with the text passed to us on 6 May, and forwarded to you under cover of my letter of 7 May.

There is only one point which our Soviet specialists have made in examining the letter in its final form: it confirms that Mr Gorbachev addressed the Prime Minister as 'Dear Mrs Thatcher' and the address includes the phrase 'Her Excellency'. Neither of these formulations was used in the previous message from a Soviet General Secretary to the Prime Minister, that from Mr Andropov in November 1983. Mr Gorbachev has therefore intended to communicate a slightly friendlier tone. But the point is not of great significance.

I am enclosing the top copy of the letter. I should be grateful if you would return it to us, keeping a photocopy for your records if you wish, so that our Research Department may have it to hand, particularly as regards the studying of the evolution of Mr Gorbachev's signature (which has notably more of a flourish to it than those of either of his two predecessors).

Yours ever,

L V Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



JP
cc/ross

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 May 1985

I enclose the signed original of the Prime Minister's VE Day message to Mr. Gorbachev. I should be grateful if arrangements could be made for it to be delivered urgently.

(C. D. POWELL)

The Resident Clerk,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 May, 1985

NBDM
OD

Dear Charles,

VE Day: Exchange of Messages

In his letter of 5^{att.} May, the Resident Clerk gave the latest state of play on the exchange of messages between the Prime Minister and Mr Gorbachev. I understand the Prime Minister was content with what was proposed and action was taken on 6 May in Moscow on 6 May, where the exchange of messages was completed.

It was agreed with the Russians that both messages should be dated 7 May. The Russians confirmed that they would appear in the Soviet morning press on 8 May. We told them that the texts would be released to the press in London on 7 May under an embargo which would ensure that the messages were not published before 8 May, ie for publication in our morning papers on 8 May. I understand that your press office will be making these arrangements.

I enclose clean copies of the messages as they were exchanged in Moscow yesterday. The English translation of Mr Gorbachev's message was worked over again by our Embassy with the Russians and differs in one or two minor stylistic points from the text enclosed with the Resident Clerk's letter of 5 May.

Our latest information about the exchanges planned by the French and Americans is that the French still intend to have an exchange between M. Mitterrand and Mr Gorbachev but have not yet reached the point of exchanging texts. The Americans have just informed us that the Russians have told them that they were no longer prepared to exchange messages because "current circumstances were unfavourable". The State Department interpret the sudden Soviet move as a reaction to President Reagan's speeches in Germany.

I am sending copies of this letter to Richard Mottram (MOD) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary



Her Excellency
The Right Honourable
Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister of Great Britain

Dear Madam Prime Minister

On this day of the memorable jubilee - the 40th Anniversary of the great victory over Hitlerite fascism in the Second World War - the comradeship in arms of the states of the anti-Hitlerite coalition, in which both our countries participated, is warmly recalled in the Soviet Union. The Soviet people, who exerted gigantic efforts and made huge sacrifices for the sake of delivering mankind from fascist tyranny, harbours feelings of respect for the gallantry of the British people who made a substantial contribution to achieving the victory.

Peace has been reigning on European soil for forty years. Proceeding from the existing post-war territorial-political realities in Europe it is important to go on preserving and strengthening the foundations of security, peace and co-operation on the continent as laid down in the decisions of the Crimea and Potsdam conferences and confirmed in the Helsinki Final Act.

The experience which the peoples of our countries lived through shows that war should be fought against before it breaks out. In order to prevent a new World War, a climate of trust and mutual understanding among peoples is urgently needed, as well as consistent efforts by all states aimed at stopping a dangerous build-up of nuclear arms, preventing the militarisation of space, and removing the military threat hanging over the world. The Soviet Union

/is



is prepared to co-operate with Great Britain - its former ally in the anti-Hitlerite coalition - in achieving these noble goals.

On this memorable day, please accept, Madam Prime-Minister, sincere wishes of peace and prosperity to the people of Great Britain.

M Gorbachev

Moscow,
The Kremlin

7 May 1985



10 Downing Street
LONDON

7 May 1985

His Excellency Mr M S Gorbachev
General Secretary of the Central
Committee of the Communist Party
Of the Soviet Union

Dear Mr Gorbachev

On this 40th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe, it is right that we should look back and pay tribute with pride and thankfulness for the heroism of those in both our countries who fought in a common cause, and with grief for the terrible sufferings involved. We in Britain rededicate ourselves on this occasion to the values of freedom with justice for which victory was won.

The experience of these 40 years points to the vital importance of our efforts to work patiently and realistically for better understanding and co-operation between our two countries and peoples, acknowledging our mutual desire for security and lasting peace.

I take the opportunity of this Anniversary day to send you and the Soviet people my best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE TO MR. GORBACHEV

I think we have found a way of slightly warming the message up without changing the "official" text. Could you please add in manuscript on the end:

"I take the opportunity of this anniversary day to send you and the Soviet people my best wishes."

We shall tell the Russians that you added this in your own hand.

Could you also please put

"Dear Mr. Gorbachev".

The experts think this is more appropriate since you are not addressing him as Party Secretary on this occasion.

C.D.P.

6 May 1985