

SECRET AND PERSONAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

16 September 1985

*Dear Len,*

RETALIATION FOR EXPULSIONS FROM MOSCOW

The Prime Minister held a further meeting this morning to consider how we should react to the Soviet expulsion of British Embassy and other personnel from Moscow, in the light of the views expressed by HM Ambassador Moscow in Moscow telegram number 889.

It was agreed that we should go ahead with a further round of expulsions but should choose those to be expelled carefully so as to reduce the likelihood that any further Soviet retaliation would be directed against technical and security staff in the Embassy in Moscow. The aim should be six expulsions; but if this could not be done within the criteria above, the figure should be five.

I am copying this letter to Hugh Taylor (Home Office), Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Antony Duff.

*Yours sincerely,*

(CHARLES POWELL)

L.V. Appleyard, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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