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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 October 1985

Dear Len,

GORDIEVSKY AND THE EAST EUROPEAN CONNECTION

Thank you for your letter of 2 October in which you asked what we should do about the East European intelligence officers in London who were identified by Gordievsky.

The Prime Minister agrees that we should not take action to expel them, but hopes that they are being very closely watched.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Home Secretary and to Sir Robert Armstrong, as well as to the Director General of the Security Service.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Powell

TS

Len Appleyard, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SKW



Prime Minister  
Agree not to  
expel the bank  
Europeans? You have  
said that we are  
drawing a line.  
Dear Charles,

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 October 1985

Agreed - but hope  
they are being closely  
watched = not

Gordievsky and the East European Connection

One loose end which remains to be tied up is the question of what to do about the East European intelligence officers in London who were identified by Gordievsky. There were three. They were in the Czech, Bulgarian and East German Embassies.

It was agreed with Sir Robert Armstrong that we should delay a decision about these three diplomats until action had been taken against the Russians. In the event the Foreign Secretary thinks this decision was wise.

There would still, of course, be something to be said for expelling the three East Europeans - first to get rid of them and second to underline for those Governments also HMG's firm policy of not tolerating espionage in the UK.

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We have made public our intention to draw the line under the Gordievsky episode as far as the Russians are concerned. To expel three Eastern European diplomats now would open a new chapter with the Eastern Europeans. The Foreign Secretary thinks the British media would find this extremely difficult to understand.

For all these reasons, the Foreign Secretary recommends against expelling the three Eastern European diplomats concerned.

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The friends and the Security Service agree. If there is any press interest in the absence of action against Eastern European diplomats, we would explain on a non-attributable basis that, although Gordievsky may have given relevant information, this did not provide sufficiently clear-cut cases for expulsion, but that we are keeping a careful eye on matters.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Home Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong and to the Director General of the Security Service.

*Yours ever,*

*Le Appleyard*

(L V Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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