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CC NW } Could you please let me know if you get invitations.  
RC  
MA  
BI



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 October 1985

CDP  
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Dear Charles,

Soviet National Day Reception

This year's reception to mark the 68th Anniversary of the October Revolution will be held at the Soviet Embassy on 5 November. Some Ministers will already have received invitations from the Soviet Ambassador.

Last year the Foreign Secretary, in a break with past practice, accepted Mr Popov's invitation. This year he is unable to attend. Mr Rifkind will do so.

The Foreign Secretary believes that the level of Ministerial representation at the Soviet reception should be consistent with our wish to conduct a realistic, businesslike dialogue with the Soviet Union. It is not a time for gestures of special warmth, which would come strangely after the recent expulsion of British officials from Moscow. But we do wish to show that we mean it when we say that business as usual should go on. It is also relevant that The Queen's Birthday Reception in Moscow was attended this year by very few senior Russians. The Russians will no doubt be watching with interest the level of attendance at their November reception, and will regard it as an indicator of our policy towards them.

I should therefore be grateful if colleagues would get in touch with this office when invitations are received which their Ministers would hope in principle to accept, before any reply is sent to the Soviet Embassy. In principle we believe that it will be right to limit attendance to those Junior Ministers who have genuine business to do with the Soviet Union.

I am copying this to Private Secretaries of all Ministers in charge of Departments with a request that they circulate it as necessary.

Yours ever,  
Le Appleyard  
(L V Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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