



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 October 1986

Dear Charles,

Soviet National Day Reception

This year's reception to mark the 69th anniversary of the October Revolution will be held at the Soviet Embassy on 7 November. Some Ministers will already have received invitations from the Soviet Ambassador.

In 1984 the Foreign Secretary, in a break with past practice, accepted Mr Popov's invitation. He will do so again this year. In deciding on the level of Ministerial representation on this occasion, we need to bear in mind the continued presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, and the fact that very few senior Russians attend the Queen's Birthday Reception in Moscow. But we also now have an active programme of high level contacts with the Soviet Union, and our aim is of course to conduct a realistic, business-like bilateral dialogue. He would therefore not wish to dissuade any colleague from attending, provided they have recently done, or see an early prospect of doing, genuine business 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,  
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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