

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

The Foreign Secretary mentioned to you last week that the Russians were anxious to set a date for your visit to the Soviet Union soon, as Mr Gorbachev's diary was filling up. You are of course seeing the Soviet Ambassador on Wednesday next week.

Thursday?

From the foreign affairs point of view the early part of next year would be a good time to go. It would create a continuity in contacts with President Reagan and the Soviet leadership. It would also probably be before any US/Soviet summit. It seems to be what the Russians are expecting.

I think that you will need to allow three days in all, including travel, if you are to have a chance to go outside Moscow for part of the time. We have therefore looked at possible Monday/Wednesday dates and you could do:-

30 March - 1 April

13-15 April (the week before Easter and the House is likely to be in recess)

- Please do not use that brief room.

✓ 20-25 April (which would mean using Easter Monday)

I do not know if you have any preference between these dates. Alternatively we might offer a choice to Mr Gorbachev.

Agree to put these dates to the Russians?

CDP

Charles Powell

10 November 1986

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10 DOWNING STREET

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From the Private Secretary

13 November 1986

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

Thank you for your letter of 12 November about dates for the Prime Minister's visit to the Soviet Union. As you will see from my separate letter, the Prime Minister put the dates of 30 March-1 April to Mr. Zamyatin when he called this morning and he undertook to report them to Moscow. You might like to instruct Bryan Cartledge to take parallel action rapidly. We can keep the dates of 20-22 April in reserve for later consideration.

(C. D. POWELL)

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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CCP
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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 November 1986

Prime Minister
It looks as though
the earlier date would
be the better one to go

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Visit to the Soviet Union

You wrote on 11 November suggesting, in order of preference, 20/23 April and 30 March/1 April as possible dates for the Prime Minister's visit.

at-Map

for.
Agree?
CCP
12/11

We have consulted Sir Bryan Cartledge. There is no difficulty we can see over 30 March to 1 April. There is, however, a foreseeable problem about 20 to 23 April, in that the 116th anniversary of Lenin's birth falls on 22 April. This will entail a major speech (by a member of the leadership, other than Gorbachev) followed by a concert in the Kremlin which all the leadership, including Gorbachev, will attend, on one of the days between 20 and 23 April. In other words, one evening of the visit would be pre-empted so far as contact, social or otherwise, with the leadership is concerned.

Yes
no

Sir Bryan Cartledge sees no overriding disadvantage in that. Nevertheless, we believe it could be a real constraint in the organisation of a satisfactory programme. The coincidence between the visit and the anniversary would no doubt give rise to comments by the British media. And it is also possible that the Russians would prefer to avoid this period.

/We



We therefore think that, if possible, it would be better if the Prime Minister were able to propose another date as the alternative to 30 March/1 April. If, however, her diary commitments make that out of the question, and she wishes to maintain 20/23 April as one of her proposals, we suggest that we instruct Sir Bryan in doing so to make clear that we are aware of the anniversary and would understand if the Soviet authorities preferred the visit to take place on the earlier dates. We see some advantage in instructing Sir Bryan to do this direct to Gorbachev (or Shevardnadze if Gorbachev proves unavailable) when he delivers the Prime Minister's message after her visit to Washington.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
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PM TOURS: Soviet Union - 96.86



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CJ



bc PC
Mrs Ryder.

10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Private Secretary

11 November 1986

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

You will recall that Mr. Shevardnadze told the Foreign Secretary in Vienna that it would be helpful to have proposals soon for dates for the Prime Minister's visit to the Soviet Union next year. I have discussed this with the Prime Minister and we have identified two possible dates which she could manage in the early part of next year. They are, in order of preference, 20/23 April and 30 March/1 April.

Subject to any comments you may have, I suggest that you instruct HM Ambassador in Moscow to propose these dates to the Soviet Government. I do not exclude the possibility that the Prime Minister will mention them to the Soviet Ambassador when she sees him tomorrow.

C. D. POWELL

C.R. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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