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TO:

PRIME MINISTER

FROM:

GEOFFREY PATTIE

30 January 1987

Prime Minister
We shall need to
take an overall
look at possible
bilateral agreements
for you to sign in
Moscow.

CDP
3/2

1 I understand that thought is being given to your signing an agreement on space co-operation with the Soviet Union during your forthcoming visit to Moscow.

2 Roy Gibson, the Director General of the British National Space Centre (BNSC) visited Moscow last autumn at the invitation of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Discussion of potential areas of collaboration was encouraging, not only in solar and astro-physics, planetary science and astronomy but in space medicine where, I understand, serious work is already being done in several UK centres, which appears to be attractive to the Russians.



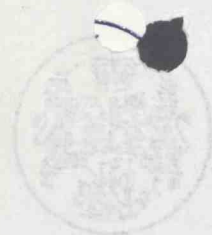
3 Thus, while the agreement may at first sight appear to lack sufficient substance to warrant your signature, it will act as an enabling document to encourage worthwhile collaborative projects which are already beginning to be identified. Without it, the Russians are more likely to turn to countries, such as France, with which they already have such an agreement. I also believe that the signing of the agreement during your visit would be attractive presentationally.

4 The agreement would not, of course, pre-empt our forthcoming decisions on the Space Plan nor would it necessarily commit us to any new work.

A handwritten mark in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive-like shape that resembles a checkmark or a signature flourish.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G.P.' with a horizontal line underneath.

GEOFFREY PATTIE



COMPTON