

PRIME MINISTER

The Foreign Office are keen to use your visit to Moscow as a lever to open up access to the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

They have difficulty, however, in identifying a plausible opposite number. In a sense, it ought to be Conservative Party foreign affairs experts. (The Labour Party maintain contacts with the International Department). The Foreign Secretary has concluded, however, that the Cabinet Office would be the best conduit. He recommends that we should send a delegation headed by Christopher Mallaby.

You will want to consider whether you would prefer to pursue this on a Conservative Party net: or are content for Mr. Mallaby to go.

CDP

Charles Powell

13 May 1987

P.S. I have since spoken to Henry Cradock, who is not enthusiastic about a Cabinet office team. Perhaps he should go?
CDP

I think it should be Party experts.

Perhaps F.C.S. → can discuss after the election no

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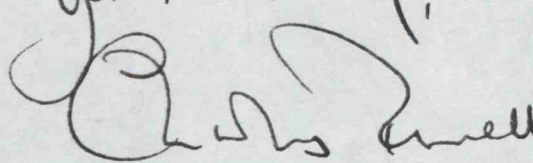
17 May 1987

From the Private Secretary

Dear Lynn,

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION:
TALKS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

Thank you for your letter of 13 May suggesting that we should seek to arrange for a Cabinet Office delegation to visit Moscow for talks with the International Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU. The Prime Minister is not convinced that the Cabinet Office are really the counterparts of the International Department. It might, for instance, be more appropriate for Conservative Party foreign affairs experts to try to establish the appropriate contacts. She would wish to discuss this further with the Foreign Secretary after the Election.

Yours sincerely,

(CHARLES POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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MR POWELL *ca 17/5*

Follow-up to the Prime Minister's Visit
to the Soviet-Union: Talks with the
International Department of the
Central Committee *? with COP/PM.*

I confirm, with reference to Lyn Parker's letter of 13 May to you, that Sir Robert Armstrong would be content for Christopher Mallaby to visit Moscow for talks with the International Department of the Central Committee, if the Prime Minister agrees with the Foreign Secretary's proposal.

2. I am sending a copy of this letter to Lyn Parker (FCO).

T A WOOLLEY

15 May 1987

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