

cc PC ①

Prime Minister

Do you have views on

the letters suggested

on page 2?

I think Isaiah Berlin would be best, & could probably do it. ^{19 October 1987} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~inclined~~ to Michael Howard. Alternatives Jean Charles, whom you might ^{CDP} consider - & would be reliable speakers in these special circumstances - would be Leon Brittan or



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Anglo/Soviet Relations: Public Lecture

The Anglo/Soviet Memorandum of Understanding on extending cooperation in information, culture and education, signed during the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow, provides for a series of annual public lectures alternately in the Soviet Union and Britain, beginning in 1987/8. These are to be delivered by distinguished public figures on social, economic, cultural or political themes and to be given appropriate media coverage by the host country, including publication.

Richard
Heseltine.

CDP
27/x

It was not spelled out which country was to provide the first lecturer, but we have heard indirectly that the Russians may bid for a lecture in this country (on perestroika and glasnost) in the near future. As long as we are given sufficient notice, and the Soviet lecturer is sufficiently distinguished, this would give us a chance to show the importance we attach to the lecture through our treatment of it, and thus ensure reciprocal treatment in Moscow.

The Foreign Secretary has meanwhile been reflecting on the right candidate for our own first lecture, on the assumption that this would take place in Moscow in 1988. The basic choice is between a political figure who has had senior governmental responsibility and who would therefore be assumed to be speaking on behalf of Britain in its approach to the Soviet Union; or a distinguished figure from the non-political world, for example science or culture, who could make an individual contribution. A senior political figure would have more chance of being known in the Soviet Union and being treated accordingly, and would have a rare opportunity to get across to a wide public authoritative British views (even if not necessarily those of the government of the day) on major issues. On the other hand the Russians have a heavy diet of political speeches and there is much to be said for using the lecture over a period of years to present views different from those they usually hear on a wider range of topics.



The Foreign Secretary is inclined to think that our lecturer should more often fall into the second category than the first. The following short list of possible candidates therefore reflects his order of preference:

Young
people
please



Lord Quinton
Lord Dainton, FRS
Professor Sir Michael Howard

Lord Carrington (NATO connection might be too recent for Soviet taste)

Lord Callaghan (might not say what we would want him to)

Sir Isaiah Berlin (could lecture in Russian but probably now too frail).

The Foreign Secretary would be grateful for any views on these candidates or further ideas the Prime Minister may have.

Come over,
(Signature)

(A C Galsworthy)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-SOVIET LECTURE

You wanted some different and preferably younger names from whom to choose the first person to deliver the Anglo-Soviet lecture. How about one of these?

- George Walden
- Grey Gowrie
- Richard Pollock (your interpreter in Moscow)
- Hugh Thomas
- Leon Brittan

Grey Gowrie - n Richard Pollock

CDP

not

CDP

29 October 1987

RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 October, 1987.

ANGLO/SOVIET RELATIONS: PUBLIC LECTURE

Thank you for your letter of 19 October about possible candidates to deliver the first annual public lecture in the Soviet Union provided for in the Anglo/Soviet Memorandum of Understanding on extending cooperation in information, culture and education.

The Prime Minister thought the various names put forward in your letter were a bit on the elderly side, and would prefer us to suggest someone rather younger. Two candidates in particular occur to her: Lord Gowrie and Richard Pollock. The latter you will remember is the interpreter who accompanied the Prime Minister on her visit to the Soviet Union. Lord Gowrie would no doubt be the more authoritative speaker, but you will also wish to consider Richard Pollock's claims seriously. He would of course be able to deliver the lecture in Russian.

C.D. Powell

A.C. Galsworthy, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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