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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 October 1987

Jean Charles,

C D P 27/k.

Soviet National Day Reception

This year's reception to mark the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution will be held at the Soviet Embassy on 6 November. The Russians will attach added significance to the occasion because of the round number 70. Some Ministers will already have received invitations from the Soviet Ambassador.

Last year the Foreign Secretary accepted the invitation. He would do so again this year, but prior constituency business means he will be outside London on the day. He will therefore be represented by Mr Mellor.

In deciding the level of Ministerial representation on this occasion, Sir Geoffrey sees a need to strike a balance taking account of the continued presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, but also of our substantial and businesslike bilateral dialogue following the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow. He would therefore hope that some colleagues will attend. He would not wish to dissuade any colleague from attending who has in the last year done, or sees a 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,

(A C Galsworthy)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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Dear Charles,

I have written to you separately about Ministerial attendance at the Soviet National Day reception in London.

The celebrations for this occasion in Moscow have traditionally included a military parade and Kremlin reception. We have for some years restricted the level of our attendance at the former while, in common with close allies, authorising the Ambassador (only) to attend the latter. We propose to do the same this year.

It is possible that in this year, the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution, a special, or additional Kremlin reception may replace or supplement that which has customarily taken place. Sir Bryan Cartledge has advised us that at either or both of these he may have the opportunity to shake hands with Mr Gorbachev. He has suggested that he should convey a few words of greeting from the Prime Minister when he does so, along the following lines:

"My Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, has asked me to convey to you her personal best wishes and to express her hope that you will be able to take up her invitation to visit the United Kingdom during the course of next year."

I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister is content for the Ambassador to speak in these terms.

Yours ever,

(A C Galsworthy)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
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From the Private Secretary

27 October 1987

Thank you for your letter of 27 October suggesting a form of words that Sir Bryan Cartledge might use were he to encounter Mr. Gorbachev at an event marking the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution. I am sure the Prime Minister would be content for Sir Bryan to speak in the manner proposed.

C D POWELL

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

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