

PRIME MINISTER

MR. GORBACHEV'S VISIT

Some of the main questions on which it would be helpful to have your guidance before setting in hand the detailed arrangements are:

(i) Arrival/Departure

Would you want a full honour guard, which Mr. Gorbachev would inspect?

Do you think there should be a band, and national anthems played?

[Although he is not a Head of State, I think we should give him the fullest possible treatment.]

(ii) Talks

Should we propose that your talks with Mr. Gorbachev be one to one, as in Moscow? If Mr. Gorbachev wanted to include others, e.g. Yakovlev who is a full member of the Politburo, we should presumably agree. The Foreign Secretary would have separate talks with other senior Soviet officials not involved in the talks with you.

(iii) Lunch

Assuming that lunch will be appropriate, should we propose one lunch for you, the Gorbachevs and the few most senior officials; and another for the rest? Or would you want to lunch just with the Gorbachevs?

(iv) Mrs. Gorbachev

Who should look after her during the talks? Should she have a short programme? (i.e. meet schoolchildren). We shall of course provide a suite where she can rest, tidy etc.

(v) Interpretation

Agree to ask for Richard Pollock?

(vi) Press

Obviously there will have to be photographs. Should we propose to the Russians a short joint press conference?

CDP

CHARLES POWELL

21 November 1987

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