



Prime Minister

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Agree to send Foreign and Commonwealth Office
the proposed message London SW1A 2AH
for the Chatham House lecture?

23 November 1987

I don't think much of
the proposed titles for these lectures,
Learn Chavch, proposed in page 2. Agree to ask
the FCO to think again?

Let me look
at the
dinner
not

CDP
23/11

Anglo-Soviet Annual Lecture, 27 November

As you know, Academician Aganbegyan is giving the inaugural lecture in the series agreed during the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow at Chatham House on 27 November at 1330 hrs. We are doing our best to ensure that he gets a large, high level, audience and good media coverage. The event is likely to be televised.

The Foreign Secretary would have wished to attend, but will unfortunately have to be in Spain on that day. He will be represented by Mr Mellor. We understand that the Prime Minister has a lunch engagement and is not likely to be able to drop in for part of the proceedings (eg the buffet lunch beforehand) as she did at the Royal Society dinner for Dr Marchuk.

The Foreign Secretary would however see considerable merit in the Prime Minister sending a short message to be read out at the start of the public part of the Chatham House occasion before Academician Aganbegyan gives his talk. This would emphasise the importance she attaches to following up the initiatives agreed during her visit to Moscow. The Foreign Secretary has in mind something on the following lines:

^{very pleased}
"I am delighted that the series of lectures agreed during my visit to Moscow earlier this year is being inaugurated so soon and with such a distinguished figure as the first Soviet lecturer. I can think of no more interesting current subject than the one chosen and no more appropriate speaker to present it. I am only sorry that I am unable to be present myself. I hope that Academician Aganbegyan's lecture will be the first of many which will help our two countries to understand each other better. And I hope that a similarly distinguished audience will attend the inaugural British lecture in Moscow next year."

The Foreign Secretary has also been considering the question of a title for the lecture series as a whole. It has proved difficult to come up with titles likely to have an impact both here and in the Soviet Union, and to be

/acceptable

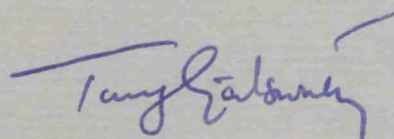
although I have definitely been able to discuss meet



acceptable to both sides. The Foreign Secretary has concluded that the two leading candidates are:

- "The Murmansk Lectures": for both British and Soviet audiences this would recall our war-time partnership with the Soviet Union. There were 40 convoys to Murmansk and Archangel involving nearly 800 ships, of which 90 were lost. There is a Commonwealth war cemetery in Murmansk with 20 British graves in it (the vast majority of the casualties were of course at sea). During his recent speech in Murmansk, Mr Gorbachev made a notably warm reference to the convoys: "We have not forgotten nor shall we ever forget how allied convoys with weapons and equipment for the Soviet Army broke their way here through Hitlerite blockade. The courage of Soviet, British and American sailors who secured their passage was and remains a vivid symbol of cooperation between our peoples in the period of the Second World War." Murmansk would therefore be an evocative title: the only negative connotation from the Russian point of view is the Allied intervention at Murmansk after the Revolution, in which some British troops were involved. But we doubt if this is likely to be a serious problem.
- "The Glasnost Lectures": although "Glasnost" risks becoming something of a cliché, and might not survive a change of regime in the USSR, it has the merit of simplicity and directness. The Russians might however have some difficulty in accepting it.

The Foreign Secretary's own preference is for "The Murmansk Lectures". While not as eye-catching as "Glasnost", this might be sufficiently unusual to catch on and sufficiently neutral to be acceptable to the Russians.

Yours ever,


(A C Galsworthy)
Private Secretary

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ack PC

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From the Private Secretary

24 November 1987

ANGLO-SOVIET ANNUAL LECTURE, 27 NOVEMBER

Thank you for your letter of 23 November about the inaugural lecture by Academician Aganbegyan at Chatham House on 27 November. The Prime Minister is, unfortunately, unable to attend but is content to send the message proposed in your letter. However, there is one slight amendment - substitute the words "very pleased" for "delighted" in the first line.

BF // She is not particularly attracted by either of the proposed titles for the Anglo-Soviet lecture in future. I should be grateful if further thought could be given to this.

CHARLES POWELL

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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