



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 November 1987

*Yes* *Prime Minister*  
*Dear Charles,* *Content with proposed*  
*announcement?*  
*COP 23/11/87*

Possible visit by Mr Gorbachev

I am replying to the points in your letter of 21 November to the Resident Clerk and your two letters of 23 November to me about the arrangements for Mr Gorbachev's possible stopover at Brize Norton on his way to the Washington Summit, and the possibility of the Soviet advance party stopping at Brize Norton on 25 November.

MOD have given the green light both to the substantive stopover and the recce visit. They are going ahead with the necessary arrangements. They have taken on board the Prime Minister's wish that arrangements should be meticulous and that full honours should be accorded.

Although we have not yet been given the definite go-ahead by the Russians that the visit is on, we should be ready with an announcement to make either tomorrow, 24 November, or at the latest Wednesday 25 November. Now that the MOD and Brize Norton are involved the circle of people in the know is inevitably widening and with it the risk of a leak. (As you know the circle is wider than it need have been as a result of Aeroflot's unexpected telex to Brize Norton.) Once the text has been approved, we will clear it and the timing of any announcement with the Russians.

We also need to consider when to tell the Americans. It is quite possible that Mr Shevardnadze may already have told Mr Shultz in Geneva. Either way it would be only courteous to tell them before any announcement is made to the press. I attach a draft telegram to Washington with appropriate instructions, which should issue once the Russians have confirmed the stopover.

Liaison between the FCO and the MOD on all practical arrangements will be handled by Anne Morrison of Protocol Department. She will also act as Administrative Liaison Officer with the Soviet Embassy on the detailed protocol arrangements in very close coordination with Soviet Department where the Assistant, John Holmes, will act as Liaison Officer both with Anne Morrison and with departments concerned with substantive aspects including briefing. Mr Hemans, the head of Soviet Department, will of course be in general charge

/of

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of arrangements for the visit. You will no doubt let me know when you would like to hold the meeting proposed in your letter of 21 November.

I shall write separately with proposed arrangements for Mrs Gorbachev.

We are making arrangements to secure Richard Pollock as interpreter. He cannot be contacted until late this evening.

I shall be writing separately with proposals on the press arrangements for the visit itself in the next day or two.

I am copying this letter to John Howe.

*Yours ever*  
*A C Galsworthy*

(A C Galsworthy)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

SECRET



## DRAFT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

At the invitation of the [British] Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mr M S Gorbachev will pay a short visit to the United Kingdom on Monday 7 December on his way from Moscow to Washinton where he is to hold a meeting with ~~President Reagan~~. During his visit he will hold talks with Mrs Thatcher [who will also give a lunch in honour of Mr and Mrs Gorbachev]

to  
US/Soviet  
Summit  
in

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

YFB 4

	Classification	Caveat	Precedence
	SECRET		IMMEDIATE
TC	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION ... SECRET.....		
CAVEAT	PRIVACY MARKING/RESTRICTIVE PREFIX.....		
FM	FM (post) . FM . FCO.....		
TO	TO (precedence/post) . TO . IMMEDIATE . WASHINGTON.....		
TELNO	TELNO/ <del>TELETYPE</del> .....		
OF	OF (Time of origin) ..... Z (Month) ..... (Year).....		
AND TO	AND TO (precedence/post) .....		
	.....		
	AND TO SAVING .....		
INFO	INFO (precedence/post) .....		
	.....		
	INFO SAVING .....		

Distribution:-

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR  
POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE UK BY MR GORBACHEV.

1. Subject to ~~the~~ final confirmation which is expected either late today 24 November or early 25 November, Mr Gorbachev and the Soviet delegation will make a short stopover in the UK on their way from Moscow to Washington on 7 December. The exact details including the length of the stopover have yet to be determined but the party are expected to land at RAF Brize Norton, and the Prime Minister and Secretary of State expect to hold separate talks with Mr Gorbachev and Mr Shevardnadze. If time permits the Prime Minister will give a lunch in honour of Mr and Mrs Gorbachev and the Soviet delegation.

2. It may be that Mr Shevardnadze has already mentioned the possibility of this to Mr Shultz in Geneva. Nevertheless ~~on receipt of a trigger delegation~~ please inform the Americans of this at a suitably high level. The Prime Minister will <sup>shortly</sup> be sending a reply to President Reagan's pre-summit message in which she intends to outline her thoughts on her necessarily

Catchword: short

File number	Department	Drafted by: (block capitals)	Telephone no
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short talks with Mr Gorbachev. She will also send him her impressions once these talks have taken place.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN





file 8. ech

bc PC  
BI

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

cas/ep

*From the Private Secretary*

24 November 1987

**POSSIBLE VISIT BY MR. GORBACHEV**

Thank you for your letter of 23 November about the possible visit by Mr. Gorbachev.

I agree to the proposed text of the announcement in the slightly amended form enclosed. I also agree that we should try to let the Americans know about the visit before the formal announcement. But I would prefer to wait until we have had the final decision from the Russians that Mr. Gorbachev will come.

I am copying this letter to John Howe (Ministry of Defence).

(Charles Powell)

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

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DRAFT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

At the invitation of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P., the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mr. M. S. Gorbachev will pay a short visit to the United Kingdom on Monday 7 December on his way from Moscow to the US/Soviet Summit in Washington. During his visit he will hold talks with Mrs. Thatcher [who will also give a lunch in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Gorbachev].

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*ce/K9*



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 2111/3 (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

MO 6/18/4

24th November 1987

*CDP 24/11*

*De Charles,*

POSSIBLE VISIT BY MR GORBACHEV

*at top*

Should you want an MOD representative at the meeting proposed in your letter of 21st November, may I nominate our Head of Protocol to attend. He is Group Captain John Dillon on extension 6608. It is he who is co-ordinating the arrangements from the MOD's point of view.

*Yrs Sincerely,  
John Howe*

(J F HOWE)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
No 10 Downing Street

SECRET

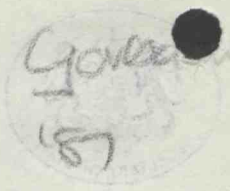


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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Sov. UNION: visit by Gorbachev

Nov '87



ON QUEEN ST  
LONDON





EMBASSY  
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS  
CONSULAR DEPARTMENT

Kensington Palace Gardens  
London, W. 8  
Tel.: 229-32-16

No. 358/ko

The Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presents its compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and with reference to our note No.355/ko of November 20, 1987 has the honour to inform that the flights mentioned in the note will be carried out not on 26 and 27 November 1987, but on 25 and 26 November 1987 with landing not at Shannon but at Brize Norton.

The Embassy would be grateful to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the communication of the above information to the appropriate British authorities.

The Embassy of the USSR avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurances of its highest consideration.

London, November 23, 1987



FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

L o n d o n





EMBASSY  
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS  
CONSULAR DEPARTMENT

Kensington Palace Gardens  
London, W. 8  
Tel.: 229-32-16

No. 357/ko

The Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presents its compliments to the Ministry of Defence and has the honour to inform that to bring <sup>from</sup> Moscow to Washington specialists to ensure the forthcoming visit of Mr. M. S. Gorbachev to the USA Aeroflot is operating special flight AFL 4I2I on IL-62M aircraft No. 86466, call-sign RPNDZ (reserved aircrafts No. 86710 call-sign RPEIK and No. 86536, call-sign ROWRV). Captain's name is Khomchenko.

The flight will be as follows (Time in UTC):

25.II.87.

Take off from Moscow - 07.00  
Arrival at Brize Norton - 11.05  
Take off from Brize Norton - 12.35  
Arrival at Washington - 20.40

Flight delays will be notified direct to the airfield concerned by the aircraft captain.

The Embassy would be grateful to the Ministry of Defence for getting clearance for the above-mentioned aircraft to overfly the UK territory and land at Brize Norton airport.

The Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Defence the assurances of its highest consideration.

London, 23 November 1987



THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

L o n d o n



NOTICE : 5 working days for UK airfields  
10 for overseas airfields

To: Ministry of Defence  
S (Air)  
Metropole Building  
Northumberland Avenue  
London WC2N 5EL

REQUEST FOR DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR AIRCRAFT

Country	USSR	Date of Application	23.II.87	Date of Flight	25.II.87
Aircraft Type	IL-62M MIL/CIV	Radio Callsigns	RPNDZ	Capt.'s name	Khomchenko
Crew/Ranks	18	Passengers	20 MIL/CIV	VIP	YES/NO
Reason for Flight/VIP details:	to ensure the forthcoming visit of Mr.M.S.Gorbachev to the USA				
Cargo Amount	YES/NO	Type		Cargo Handling Agent	n/a
		Dangerous	YES/NO	Tel. No.	

AIRCRAFT ROUTE

LANDING OVERFLIGHT = Entry/Exit Points/Time

Field of Origin	Moscow USSR	ETA		ETD	07.00
Last Airfield before UK	none	ETA		ETD	
UK Airfield Requested	Brize Norton	ETA	II.05	ETD	12.35
Acceptable Alternate					
First Airfield after UK	Washington, USA	ETA	20.40	ETD	
Destination Airfield	as above	ETA	as above		

FACILITIES REQUESTED

Customs	YES/NO	Numbers		Type	MIL/CIV	No. of Nights	
Accommodation*	YES/NO	Type		Amount			
Food*	YES/NO	Type		Destination			
Transport*	YES/NO	Car No.	248D 3I6	Names	Mr.N.Kossov Mr.A.Smagin		
Embassy Staff Meeting?	YES/NO	Type					
Cargo Handling Equipment*	YES/NO						
Aircraft Guards*	YES/NO						

I understand the facilities marked \* may incur further charges.

Originator's Name: M.Ippolitov  
Rank/Status: USSR Cbnsul  
Tel: 2298027  
Ext: [ ]

Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]*  
[Official Seal of the Ministry of Defence]

FOR FLS ACTION