



SUBJECT

CCMASTER

C.D.R.

10 DOWNING STREET
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26 November 1987

From the Private Secretary

VISIT BY MR. GORBACHEV

The Soviet Ambassador called on the Prime Minister this morning to say that he had been instructed to confirm to her that Mr. Gorbachev accepted with gratitude the Prime Minister's invitation to make a short stopover in Great Britain on his way to Washington for the Soviet/American Summit. I enclose a copy of the speaking note which he handed over. The Prime Minister said that she was absolutely delighted by the news. She was very much looking forward to a chance to talk to Mr. Gorbachev.

The Ambassador said that he assumed that the Prime Minister would want to say something about this in the House this afternoon. The Prime Minister said that she would do so in answer to questions. It was agreed that No.10 and the Soviet Embassy would both confirm it to the press once Prime Minister's Questions were over. The Ambassador said that there was no mention in his instructions of the precise date. He was in no doubt that it would be 7 December. But since his instructions were not specific it might be better simply to stick to the wording "on his way to Washington".

The Prime Minister continued that she was also looking forward very much to seeing Mrs. Gorbachev. She wanted to say how deeply distressed she was that a person whom she admired, respected and liked should be subject to the sort of remarks which had appeared in the Observer newspaper. She hoped the Ambassador would inform Mrs. Gorbachev of this and urge her not to worry about it. She herself was subject to frequent attacks in that newspaper.

I have passed the gist of the two paragraphs above by telephone to Sir Bryan Cartledge in Washington *Wiscow*

I subsequently had some further discussions with the Ambassador about the arrangements for the visit. Although he still does not have firm details of the length of the stopover or its timing, he seems to be working on the basis that Mr. Gorbachev will be something like three hours in the United Kingdom. His understanding is that Mr. Gorbachev would like a private talk with the Prime Minister at which he would be accompanied only by his assistant, Mr. Chernayev.

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Subsequently, there might be a wider session of talks or lunch. Others who he believed should be present for that, on the Soviet side, would be Shevardnadze, Yakovlev, Dobrynin, Kamentsev, Akromeyev, Chernayev and himself. If it was lunch, then of course Mrs. Gorbachev would also be present. I said that I believed the Foreign Secretary would hold a similar session of talks with Shevardnadze while the Prime Minister and Mr. Gorbachev were talking. The Ambassador said that Mr. Gorbachev would probably want to say a few words to the press. We agreed that this would best be after the meeting/lunch and before departure. The most convenient place would be in the Officers Mess.

I asked the Ambassador whether he had any ideas on what Mrs. Gorbachev would like to do. The Prime Minister had suggested that she might visit a school or kindergarten at Brize Norton; alternatively we could arrange for experts in Russian literature or philosophy to meet Mrs. Gorbachev over coffee; or she might like to meet some of the wives serving at Brize Norton. We were open to any suggestions. The Ambassador said that he would check with Mrs Gorbachev.

The Ambassador then said that the aircraft which would be landing at Brize Norton tomorrow would have aboard Vice-Minister Bessmertnykh and Deputy-Minister of State Security Kryskhov (I am not familiar with the name and this is just my spelling). He himself would be going down to Brize Norton to meet them. He thought that what they most wanted was to see the building and the rooms where the meetings and other contacts with Mr. Gorbachev would take place. I said that I would ensure that this was done. The Ambassador added that it would be very helpful if he could be met on the A41 west of Oxford and his car guided to Brize Norton. You will wish to make arrangements for this.

I subsequently suggested to you that we should make sure the level of representation at Brize Norton tomorrow matches that of the Soviet side. I have spoken in similar terms to John Howe. The Russians particularly want somebody who is responsible for security arrangements to be present to deal with Kryskhov. May I emphasise again that the Prime Minister wants no effort spared to ensure that the arrangements are everything that the Russians would wish.

I am copying this letter to John Howe in the Ministry of Defence.

C. D. Powell

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

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Speaking Note

Esteemed Madame Prime Minister,

I am instructed to confirm that the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU accepted with gratitude your kind invitation to make a short stop-over in Great Britain on his way to Washington for Soviet-American summit.

In principle the Soviet side agrees to the proposed variant of the meeting between the British Prime Minister and the General Secretary.

November 26, 1987

L. Zorn