

You'll have seen the Gabanter (Agabegyan) piece. The schoolchildren
one is me. And I think the Hungarian manifesto really important in our perspective.

HOOVER INSTITUTION

ON WAR, REVOLUTION AND PEACE

Stanford, California 94305-6010



R31/3

9 March 1988

Dear Charles

further to Ligachev.

As I said, I feel that for the moment he and Gorbachev are both wanting a victory of perestroika-ites in June; (and in a sense they are doing a good cop-bad cop routine, with Gorbachev frightening and Ligachev reassuring the apparatchiks). But of course they are rivals, as is the nature of the case. And the alliance could break up at any moment. So it's true that Ligachev could fall. So could Gorbachev.

Meanwhile, Ligachev is no 2 in the country; and if the Prime Minister is receiving (eg) Agab^{*}egyan, it would be hard to refuse Ligachev. The only argument against seeing him is different: that to refuse would be to signal support for glasnost and maximum perestroika. That does not, to my mind, seem a useful way to do it

As to the whole question of our support for perestroika, I enclose a note to the Prime Minister, which I think gets to somewhere near the heart of our long-term policy outlook on the matter.

I'll be over for a week or so before, or a week or so after 25 May. Do let me know if I can be of any service at either of those times.

Yours ever

Robert Conquest

* Agabegyan was here a couple of days ago, but had to rush home. The rather hard-line Timofeev was quite interesting to talk to.



file DTS/KK

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 April 1988

Many thanks for your letter of 9 March and for its enclosures which I have passed on to the Prime Minister. As always, they offer remarkable insights.

I read Bill Safire's article about the conference on the Soviet economy. If there is a fuller account available, I would love to see it.

I look forward to seeing you at the end of May.

C D POWELL

Mr. Robert Conquest

DTS.



NR

C/F

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 April 1988

It was very good of you to send me the documents from the Hoover-Rand Conference on the defence sector in the Soviet economy and they will be most useful. I shall also show them to the Prime Minister who follows these matters very closely, and I know that she will be most grateful to you.

(CHARLES POWELL)

Professor Henry Rowen

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File *SH*

SIR PERCY CRADOCK

I attach the various papers on the Soviet statistics circulated at the recent Hoover-Rand Conference on the defence sector in the Soviet economy at Stanford University. They may be of some interest to the people in the ~~Assessment~~ staff and elsewhere.

C. D. POWELL

15 April 1988

SLHAUV



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R14/4

HENRY S. ROWEN
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April 12, 1988

Charles Powell, Esq.
10 Downing Street
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ENGLAND

Dear Mr. Powell:

Bob Conquest has told me of your interest in some of the material that prompted the recent Safire article in the New York Times on the Soviet economy and its defense sector. I have enclosed the three most relevant papers from the conference Safire mentioned. Although the Aslund paper is long, it is quite good.

The message of these papers is clear: 1) the Soviet economy has been performing much worse than the Western (American at least) experts have estimated; and 2) the burden of defense and empire, defined broadly, is distinctly higher than we have been led to believe.

Sincerely,

Henry S. Rowen/ml

Henry S. Rowen

HSR:ml
Enclosures (3)