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C O N F I D E N T I A L

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY/FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY
FROM CHARLES POWELL, AIRBORNE.

YOUR LETTER OF 17 NOVEMBER: VISIT OF PRESIDENT GORBACHEV

1. I HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AT YOUR LETTER ON THE RETURN FLIGHT
AND HAVE A BRIEF WORD WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

FOR THE ARRIVAL, THE PRIME MINISTER IS FIRM THAT WE MUST DO IT
AT HEATHROW AND IT IS NOW UP TO ALL CONCERNED TO FIND A MEANS
TO ARRANGE A DIGNIFIED ARRIVAL CEREMONY THERE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
IF THE VIP AREA IS NOT SATISFACTORY, THEN ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
MUST BE MADE SOMEWHERE ELSE AT HEATHROW. WE HAVE THE BEST PART OF
FOUR WEEKS TO GET ORGANISED, AND SHE IS ADAMANT THAT IS WHAT WE
MUST DO.

YOU SHOULD CERTAINLY ESTABLISH THE QUEEN'S WISHES ON THE FORMAL
GUARD OF HONOUR CEREMONY. BUT EVEN IF THERE IS A FULL CEREMONY
AT THE PALACE, THE PRIME MINISTER FEELS THAT WE SHOULD STILL TRY
TO ORGANISE AN APPROPRIATE GUARD WITH A BAND ON ARRIVAL AS WELL.
THIS IS A CASE WHERE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD OUTWEIGH
NORMAL PROTOCOL.

THE PRIME MINISTER THINKS WE MUST LEAVE IT TO MRS. GORBACHEV
WHETHER SHE WOULD WISH TO BE PRESENT FOR THE LUNCH AT CHEQUERS.
IF SHE DOES, THEN SHE MUST COME, AND SO MUST MRS. ZAMYATIN.
IF MRS. GORBACHEV WOULD BE CONTENT TO HAVE AN ENTIRLY SEPARATE
PROGRAMME THAT DAY, THEN THE PRIME MINISTER SEES NO OBJECTION.

FOR THE POSSIBLE VISIT BY MR. GORBACHEV EN ROUTE FROM CHEQUERS
TO LONDON, THE PRIME MINISTER IS SURE THAT LORD CARRINGTON'S
FARM WOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, BE RIGHT, IF ONLY BECAUSE IT COULD
BE EMBARRASSING FOR MR. GORBACHEV TO GO TO THE HOME OF THE FORMER
SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO. SHE HAS AN OPEN MIND ON THE OTHER
TWO PROPOSALS (AMERSHAM INTERNATIONAL OR WELLCOME FOUNDATION),
BUT WOULD LIKE SOME FURTHER THOUGHT GIVEN TO EVEN BETTER ALTERNAT-
IVES.

THE PRIME MINISTER IS DUBIOUS ABOUT THE DOCKLANDS VISIT.
SHE THINKS IT COULD BE VERY GREY AND DREARY IN DECEMBER, AND A
RETURN TRIP ON THE RIVER THOROUGHLY UNPLEASANT. WE MUST LOOK
FOR SOMETHING IN CENTRAL LONDON IN ADDITION TO THE VISIT TO
WESTMINSTER ABBEY. BUT THE PRIME MINISTER'S PREFERENCE
ANYWAY IS TO HAVE MORE TIME TO TALK.

THE PRIME MINISTER WILL PROBABLY BE READY TO INVITE THE ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY TO THE DINNER AT NO.10, BUT WOULD CERTAINLY NOT
WISH TO PROVIDE FOR A SEPARATE MEETING WITH MR. GORBACHEV.

THE PRIME MINISTER IS CONTENT FOR THE PROPOSAL ON PILOT PROJECTS
TO BE EXPLORED FURTHER.

SHE WOULD BE HAPPY WITH EXTENDED TOASTS AT THE DINNER.

2. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD ARRANGE DESPATCH OF THIS
TELEGRAM TO THE RECIPENTS OF YOUR LETTER 1 9

GRS 00429

NNNN

CONFIDENTIAL: IMMEDIATE DESK BY 18 NOVEMBER 0830Z.

Following for Private Secretary/Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary from Charles Powell, Airborne.

Your letter of 17 November: Visit of President Gorbachev

I have had a chance to look at your letter on the return flight and have a brief word with the Prime Minister.

For the arrival, the Prime Minister is firm that we must do it at Heathrow, and it is now up to all concerned to find a means to arrange a dignified arrival ceremony there one way or another. If the VIP area is not satisfactory, then alternative arrangements must be made somewhere else at Heathrow. We have the best part of four weeks to get organised, and she is adamant that is what we must do.

You should certainly establish The Queen's wishes on the formal Guard of Honour ceremony. But even if there is a full ceremony at the Palace, the Prime Minister feels that we should still try to organise an appropriate guard with a band on arrival as well. This is a case where political considerations should outweigh normal protocol. // The Prime Minister thinks we must leave it to Mrs. Gorbachev whether she would wish to be present for the lunch at Chequers. If she does, then she must come, and so must Mrs. Zamyatin. If Mrs. Gorbachev would be content to have an entirely separate programme that day, then the Prime Minister sees no objection.

For the possible visit by Mr. Gorbachev en route from Chequers to London, the Prime Minister is sure that Lord Carrington's farm would not, repeat not, be right, if only because it could be embarrassing for Mr. Gorbachev to go to the home of the former Secretary General of NATO. She has an open mind on the other two ^{proposals} ~~alternatives~~ (Amersham International or Wellcome Foundation), but would like some further thought given to even better alternatives.

The Prime Minister is dubious about the Docklands visit. She thinks it could be very grey and dreary in December, and

a return trip on the river thoroughly unpleasant. We must look for something in central London in addition to the visit to Westminster Abbey. But the Prime Minister's preference anyway is to have more time to talk.

The Prime Minister will probably be ready to invite the Archbishop of Canterbury to the dinner at No.10, but would certainly not wish to provide for a separate meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

The Prime Minister is content for the proposal on pilot projects to be explored further.

She would ~~also~~ be happy with extended toasts at the dinner.

2. I should be grateful if you would arrange despatch of this telegram to the recipients of your letter.

CDF



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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 November 1988

Dear Charles,

Visit of President Gorbachev *top sec*

Thank you for your letter of 15 November. We hope to produce a more detailed programme very shortly. We are meanwhile working with Mr Baker on Mrs Gorbachev's programme and hope to be able to send you a draft of that before the end of the week. There is no news yet on Yazov or whether any trade minister will be in the party. This letter is to seek your advice on a number of points:

(a) The arrival: As the Prime Minister will have seen on her departure for Washington, the VIP area at Heathrow is a construction site. Heathrow's advice is that there is not enough room for a full arrival ceremony with Guard of Honour and press stand. There is also very restricted room for vehicles. We have looked at alternatives:

(i) Gatwick's VIP facilities are available. They are used to arrivals by Heads of State. The road journey to London with appropriate escort is 45 minutes as against Heathrow's 25. British Rail could provide a special train to Victoria (30 minutes) but the end result would probably be longer. Shevardnadze and perhaps Yakovlev could go straight to Chevening. Gatwick is less subject to bad weather than Brize Norton.

(ii) We could revert to Brize Norton. But the road journey to London is over an hour. Preliminary indications are that ^{the} Russians will not allow the Gorbachevs to use a British helicopter, even of The Queen's Flight. We shall explore this further. (The Prime Minister travelled in the Soviet VIP aircraft last year.) Brize Norton would be the easiest place to handle the arrival arrangements and would be worth reconsidering if you thought it worth looking again at the idea of overnighting at Chequers. Our understanding is that the rooms could be made operational in good time. There would in any case be no need for more than a very small suite to stay in the house. Shevardnadze could transfer to Chevening by helicopter.

(b) A Guard of Honour: Would you like us to establish with the Palace what The Queen's wishes are as to where she would like the formal Guard of Honour ceremony? If this is to be at Buckingham Palace, the normal form for arrival at the airport would be a carpet guard. We are asking the Ministry of

/Defence

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Defence for a band, so that Anthems can be played. As Carpet guards are not armed it would not however be possible for them to present arms as the Anthem is played.

(c) Lunch at Chequers: On the assumption that Mrs Gorbachev will not be allowed to use a helicopter it will greatly reduce the flexibility of her programme if she has to spend nearly two hours on the road getting to and from the Chequers lunch. She visited Oxford in 1984. So most of what we shall want to include in her programme will be in the London area (the Russians have already suggested the Royal Academy and the Turner exhibition). As she will be at the No 10 dinner and the Buckingham Palace lunch, would the Prime Minister be content for her programme to envisage lunch elsewhere, or would she prefer that Mrs Gorbachev should be given the option of joining the lunch at Chequers with Mr Baker? Others accompanying her, no doubt including Mrs Zamyatin, would presumably have to lunch at a nearby hotel.

(d) For Mr Gorbachev's return to London from Chequers we are considering either a visit to Amersham International, the high-tech producers of radioactive isotopes for medical diagnostic purposes (there is no COCOM involvement) or the Wellcome Foundation pharmaceuticals plant at Berkhamstead.

An alternative might be a visit to a farm (Mr Gorbachev has just been shown on Soviet television visiting a farm and he might well be interested in seeing a British one, given his agricultural background). We are discussing this with MAFF. One possibility might be Lord Carrington's farm near High Wycombe. If the Prime Minister has views on these suggestions we should welcome an early indication of them. We would still be aiming to get Mr Gorbachev back to London in time for there to be short calls by the Opposition leaders before the Mansion House reception.

(e) Depending on how long the Prime Minister wants the restricted talks to last on the Wednesday morning, there might be time for a worthwhile visit to Docklands. This would give the project some excellent publicity as well as providing virtually the only outdoor photo opportunities. The time-table could be on the following lines:

0830 Depart Kensington Palace Gardens
0850 Arrive Docklands
0950 Depart Docklands by boat (the new Thames Line
service to Westminster Pier)
1015 Arrive Westminster Abbey and lay wreath.
Short walkabout
1045 Arrive Downing Street

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Temporarily retained at Wayland, 23/3/77

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1215 Depart for the Palace

1300 Lunch

1430 Depart

(f) The Archbishop of Canterbury: My letter of 28 October put forward the suggestion of involving the Archbishop of Canterbury in the visit. Time is obviously too short for a call at Lambeth Palace. The Archbishop has been involved recently in meetings with the Chairman of the Council of Religious Affairs, Mr Kharchev, who advised him that he should make direct contact with Mr Gorbachev who would be interested in his views on church law. The Archbishop has spoken to us to say that, whilst he recognises that the programme will be too tight for him to have a separate meeting, he hopes that it will be possible to engineer a short discussion in the margins of a social event. I assume that you will in any case want to invite the Archbishop to the No 10 dinner and that you would have no objection to a suitable opportunity being taken before or after dinner for a short conversation to take place.

(g) We are arranging for Sir R Braithwaite to return from Moscow for the visit. When he saw the Prime Minister before taking up his appointment she agreed that the visit would provide an opportunity for him to gain access to Mr Gorbachev to review the programme with him. We shall be considering how best this might be done.

(h) We are pursuing with MAFF and DTI the Soviet suggestion of pilot projects in the agricultural or agro-industrial area. The Anglo-Soviet agro industrial industry working group is in fact meeting in Moscow next week. There are already several projects in this area, in which the Russians are interested, including with ICI, and others in prospect. Some kind of joint letter of intent blessing those actual and potential projects and looking forward to others could easily be drawn up. Would the Prime Minister wish us to explore this further?

(i) Given Mr Gorbachev's wish not to make a major speech would the Prime Minister be content with "extended toasts" (5-10 minutes) at the No 10 Dinner?

I am copying this letter to Bill Heseltine, Brian Hawtin (MOD), David Murphy (Department of Energy) and Shirley Stagg (MAFF).

Jans
Stephe Wall
(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

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