

PRIME MINISTER

I attach a letter from Tony Trafford suggesting that Sussex University might confer an honorary degree on President Gorbachev while he is here. The ceremony would not have to be in Sussex but could be carried out in London. The letter also says that he hopes that you might accept an honorary degree yourself, although it is not quite clear whether this would be at the same time as President Gorbachev.

Is this something which you wish me to pursue in regard to President Gorbachev? I imagine that you would not particularly relish the quite possible controversial discussion about the award of an honorary degree to yourself. I could no doubt persuade Tony Trafford not to pursue the idea. But if you see no objection, at least so far as President Gorbachev is concerned, I will get advice from the Foreign Office.

Agree to pursue for ~~you~~ and President Gorbachev?

Or agree to pursue for President Gorbachev alone?

Or drop altogether?

*Yes - but in
strict confidence
only*

CDP

(C. D. POWELL)

18 November 1988

CCP
①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 November 1988

Rice Register
Agree with in

Dear Charles,

Yes

person then further?

CCP 24/xi

President Gorbachev's visit

Thank you for your letter of ^{20 Nov} 20 November about the suggestion that President Gorbachev might be awarded an Honorary Degree by the University of Sussex.

The University of Sussex is not an especially prestigious university. Whilst we have no doubt that President Gorbachev might well in principle welcome the thought of a British Honorary Degree, the Foreign Secretary's initial view is that he would probably not be tempted all that much by one from Sussex, particularly as it would mean giving up an hour or so of a very short visit, when he has already made it very clear that his overwhelming priority is to have sufficient time for thorough and far-ranging talks with the Prime Minister.

Jans,
Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

SOVIET UNION: VIEWS of Golsbach

PTZ





FILE

KAT'ALZ

to FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

26 November 1988

The Prime Minister has now been able to consider the suggestion in your letter of 17 November that President Gorbachev might be awarded an Honorary Degree from the University of Sussex during his visit to the United Kingdom in December. She is very grateful to you for making this suggestion, but on reflection she thinks it probably better not to pursue it at least on this occasion. President Gorbachev's visit is a very brief one and he has made clear that he does not envisage leaving London during it. Moreover, his time in London is very heavily mortgaged to official talks and other functions, and it is hard to see how there will be time even for a brief ceremony. In the circumstances the Prime Minister thinks it better to reserve the distinction for some other occasion. But, once again, she was really most grateful to you for your thoughtfulness.

(C. D. POWELL)

The Lord Trafford of Falmer, Kt., F.R.C.P.

KK

PERSONAL



file

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 November 1988

Dear Stephen,

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT

We have had a suggestion from Lord Trafford of Falmer, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Sussex, that President Gorbachev might be awarded an honorary degree by the University during his visit. He would not apparently need to go there: there could be a very brief ceremony in London.

I should be grateful for some very early advice whether you think this would be appropriate and something that President Gorbachev would appreciate. But could I ask that any contacts with Tony Trafford should be through me.

*Yours sincerely,
C. D. Powell*

(C. D. POWELL)

J. S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PERSONAL

From: The Lord Trafford of Falmer Kt., FRCP.



R. 18/11

17th November 1988

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP, FRS
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

My dear Prime Minister,

I write to you on this occasion as Pro-Chancellor of the University of Sussex and I believe Charles Powell has already spoken to you following our telephone conversation.

We had been hoping that you would accept an Honorary Degree from the University of Sussex and in fact we had already initiated the due processes on their course.

As you would imagine, the names of other world statesmen are also put forward in various ways and one of those discussed was President Gorbachev. It had then been assumed that he was likely to come to Britain later next year but we now know that this has been brought forward to December.

You may think it useful for him to receive an honour from a British University whilst he is in this country and although I do not pretend to be an expert in the field, I am informed that it could have some minor diplomatic value.

We would of course be entirely guided by your own wishes. If you thought it advisable or useful this degree could be conferred whilst he is here at any venue that suited your schedules.

I understand from Charles Powell that this might be thought to be useful as far as President Gorbachev is concerned, but perhaps I might add how great would be our pleasure in conferring such a degree upon yourself.

If you do feel that this proposal has merit, the details could be arranged without any difficulty.

With kind regards

Yours ever
Tony

Sov. Union... visits by Gorb... pt 2.



СОВЕТСКИЙ СОЮЗ