

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT OF PRESIDENT GORBACHEV

There are a number of practical questions on which we need decisions when you have a moment.

Arrival

You and Mr. Thatcher will meet President and Mrs. Gorbachev at Heathrow. You have agreed to ride in to London in the car with him. Will Mr. Thatcher ride with Mrs. Gorbachev?

Yes not

Talks

Interpreter?

The talks start at 10 or 10.30 on the Tuesday morning in very restricted session. On their side it will be President Gorbachev and his Private Secretary and an interpreter. Where would you like to hold them? The choices are: the Cabinet Room
the White Room ✓
or your Study.

One possibility would be to start in the Cabinet Room and allow a press pool to take photographs and then use your Study for the talks on the second day.

Working Lunch

The talks on the first day are planned to continue through a working lunch but the Russians have said that Mrs. Gorbachev will join the lunch. Will Mr. Thatcher also join the lunch? → Yes
Would you want anyone else there? The choices are:

- the Foreign Secretary and Mr. Shevardnadze
- Mr. Yakovlev
- the two Ambassadors

Alternatively they can lunch separately at the FCO. The lunch will have to be either in the Small Dining Room or

the Pillared Room since the Main Dining Room will be ready for the evening dinner. This suggests that the smaller the number for the lunch the better.

✓
Prefer the Small Dining Room or the Pillared Room?

Afternoon Programme

After lunch President Gorbachev is to go to Westminster Abbey to lay a wreath and then visit St. Paul's Cathedral and London Docklands. There seems to be some expectation on the Soviet side that you would accompany him. Would you want to do this? It does provide a good alibi for not being at Questions.

Yes if he wishes

Mansion House Reception

Would you wish to be present at this? My feeling is that it is not necessary. You will want to be back at No. 10 to greet President Gorbachev when he arrives for dinner.

Dinner

Agree to have a small television and camera pool present for the toasts?

Yes not

Talks on Second Day

The Russians envisage these once more in very restricted form. You might like to hold them in the Study. Agree? *Yes*

Palace lunch

My understanding is that The Queen intends to invite you. You would presumably accompany President Gorbachev back to Heathrow straight from lunch in the car. Agree? *Yes*

It is not yet clear whether Mr. Thatcher will also be at the lunch (I do not think spouses are invited). Will he come to

Mr. A?

the Palace after lunch to travel to Heathrow with Mrs. Gorbachev?

Briefing

Yes
You have asked for a good lengthy briefing session of two or three hours. It may be that the only time to do this is on the weekend of 10/11 December either at Chequers or back at No. 10 on the Sunday evening. Would you be ready to contemplate this if we cannot carve any other time out of the diary? (I am sorry to ask this because I know how little time you have at weekends at the moment).

Who would you like to attend the briefing meeting. The choices are (please tick):

Foreign Secretary
Defence Secretary
Sir Percy Cradock
Sir Roderic Braithwaite



Would you like to see any "outsiders" to discuss the visit? For instance, would you want us to get in Mr. Gordievskiy? (it might be quite useful).

No
Or any of the academics? (I am not sure this is quite so necessary this time).

C.D.?

C. D. POWELL

27 November 1988

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