

Meeting Record

SUBJECT

CC MASTER

to M. Bates.
(Press)

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 December 1988

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT

The Prime Minister had a brief word with the Education Secretary following Cabinet this morning about the programme for Mrs. Gorbachev, particularly on the afternoon of Tuesday 13 December.

The Education Secretary stressed the importance of arranging for plenty of people to be around at the places where President and Mrs. Gorbachev might do a walk about. In particular it would be a good idea to have lots of children and he could help in arranging this through local schools. He thought St. Katharine's Dock was one good site for a walk about. It would also be a good idea to have some children at St. Paul's Cathedral, possibly the choir. The Prime Minister suggested that this last point should be discussed with the Dean who was very helpful.

Mr. Baker continued that, when President Gorbachev returned to the Soviet Embassy for his meeting with the Leader of the Opposition, he might take Mrs. Gorbachev to visit the Covent Garden development before going on to the London Museum. He would try to arrange for children from the John Cass school to be present at the London Museum, possibly dressed in period clothes. The Prime Minister expressed general support for these ideas and I should be grateful if you could follow them up with the Russians.

Mr. Baker also said that he could arrange for two Russian speaking schoolchildren to be on hand at London Airport for the arrival of President and Mrs. Gorbachev to present flowers. These would be in addition to the children from the Soviet Embassy school.

I am copying this letter to Tom Jeffery in the Department of Education and Science.

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.