



FINE  
DA  
PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 December 1988

Dear Stephen,

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV'S VISIT

Thank you for your letter of 1 December about the progress made with the programme for President Gorbachev's visit. I know that the Prime Minister is grateful for all the work which is going into this.

To some extent your letter is overtaken by the points made to me by the Soviet Ambassador when he called today. I have written to you separately about these. For some reason, which is not clear to me, they want to turn the sightseeing on the Tuesday afternoon into an informal occasion and seem very reluctant to add any additional places of interest to the fairly bare list already agreed. I think the Prime Minister's view would be that it is not worth trying to push them on this: they presumably have their reasons.

I also wrote to you about the arrangements on the morning of Wednesday 14 December. The Prime Minister has confirmed that she would be more than happy to go to the Soviet Embassy for the second session of talks and I have arranged for the Russians to be informed of this.

My understanding is that Shevardnadze and Yakovlev will definitely accompany President Gorbachev. So will Mr. Kamentsev. But the Defence Minister, Yazov, will not.

Yours sincerely,  
Charles Powell

(C.D. POWELL)

Stephen Wall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.