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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 December 1988

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Dear Charles,

President Gorbachev's visit: the working lunch on 13 December

I understand that you spoke to Simon Hemans over the weekend about the Russian request to include Messrs Shevardnadze, Yakovlev and Kamentsev in the Prime Minister's lunch for the Gorbachevs on 13 December.

Mr Zamyatin came to see Simon Hemans this morning to ask what the reply was, despite the fact that it had already been relayed to one of his staff. Simon repeated what you and he had discussed to the effect that the Prime Minister in any case wanted to keep the lunch small both as a continuation to the talks in the morning and to keep it as close as possible to a family occasion. He added that it would be physically impossible to hold a larger lunch given that the main dining room would be being prepared for the evening, and the small one had a capacity of ten. Sensing Zamyatin's feeling of awkwardness at being included in this lunch whilst his Minister and the other VIPs were not included, Simon added that this should in no way be taken as meaning any reluctance on the Prime Minister's part to offer a full and warm welcome to Shevardnadze, Yakovlev and Kamentsev. She had met all of them, in some cases several times, and she looked forward to meeting them and to welcoming them to No 10 Downing Street in the evening. Zamyatin instructed his notetaker to record that and seemed relieved. He hoped that when he reported the outcome to Moscow it would resolve the question. He made no attempt to suggest that one of the three could be separated and honour be satisfied by including them, so Simon did not deploy your fall-back position of Yakovlev being invited.

Simon also conveyed the Prime Minister's reluctant acceptance of the cancellation of the session of talks scheduled for the morning of 14 December, and her hope that in the event it might still be possible to find some time for

/further



further discussions. Zamyatin volunteered unprompted a statement to the effect that this had nothing whatever to do with press reports about proposed meetings between Mr Gorbachev and the relatives of the Birmingham Six/Guildford Four. No such meetings were to be held.

however, L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary



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