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Meeting
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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

8 February 1989

Dear Richard.

PROGRAMME FOR MR. GORBACHEV'S VISIT

The Prime Minister had a talk this morning with Sir Rodric Braithwaite about developments in the Soviet Union and Mr. Gorbachev's visit.

The Prime Minister said that the programme arranged for the Gorbachev visit in December had been uninspiring. She would like to make it more colourful and interesting. She recognised that the Russians themselves had been largely responsible for the choice of events and places to visit. But she thought it worth a try to convince them that we could lay on something better, particularly given that the weather in April should be rather better than December. There would anyway have to be some changes in the programme - for instance, lunch with The Queen would be at Windsor - which would give scope for putting forward some new ideas.

Particular points which the Prime Minister mentioned were:

- She thought that Mr. Gorbachev should be received in the City with as much pomp and circumstance as possible. I do not know whether the April dates make it possible to use the Guildhall rather than the Mansion House. But whatever the venue, the Prime Minister hopes there can be as much colour and pageantry as can be arranged.
- We should revert to the idea of Mr. Gorbachev giving a speech or doing a television interview.
- We should look again at the choice of a firm for Mr. Gorbachev to visit to ensure that he saw something absolutely first-class and modern, in a "good" area.
- There should be a short ceremony at some point in the programme to mark our gift of a school to Armenia, perhaps attended by a number of children.
- Mrs. Gorbachev should see some pictures, preferably the Tate Gallery so that there was a good selection of British artists.

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- She should also go to Kew Gardens.
- If possible she should visit a school or hospital where she could be seen and photographed in the company of children.
- We should check again with The Palace to see whether the guard of honour would be at Windsor, or whether we should revert to the idea of a guard of honour ceremony in the Foreign Office courtyard.

These are only a few suggestions. The Prime Minister would like some more, bearing in mind two conditions: she would want as much time as possible for talks with Mr. Gorbachev and the difficulty in the time available of arranging for the Gorbachevs to go outside London (except to Windsor). Her intention would then be to put proposals in a message to Mr. Gorbachev or to instruct me to speak in her name to the Soviet Ambassador, with Sir Rodric Braithwaite taking parallel action in Moscow with Chernayev.

I am copying this letter to Tom Jeffery (Department of Education and Science).

*Yours sincerely,
C.D. Powell*

(C.D. POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.