

FILE

PM

CF - PB



Sent via FCO.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 February 1989

Dear Mr. Laptev,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January. I shall be happy to be interviewed by you for Izvestia, and shall look forward to meeting you at 1600 on Wednesday 22 March. As it happens, Mr. Gorbachev has agreed to be interviewed by the Times at about the same time. I am sure that the two interviews in leading newspapers in our two countries will help to make it clear to a wider public that he and I attach very great importance to our meeting in April, and that we are both determined to see the present improvements in East/West relations continue and strengthen. I am glad to see therefore that you would like our interview to range widely across the whole spectrum of the international political agenda. I look forward to our discussion.

Yours sincerely

Ronald Reagan

Mr. I. Laptev

KK



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 February 1989

Dear Charles,

Mr Gorbachev's visit: Interview with Izvestia

Thank you for your letter of 13 February. I enclose a draft reply to Mr Laptev's letter to the Prime Minister in which he formally requests an interview. When the Prime Minister has agreed the letter, if you send it to me I shall arrange delivery.

Yours ever,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference
PODAAO

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:
 Mr I Laptev
 Editor-in-Chief
 Izvestia
 103791 GSP, Moscow, K-6
 Pushkinskaya, Ploschad, 5

Copies to:

Pm3ATT

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

SUBJECT:

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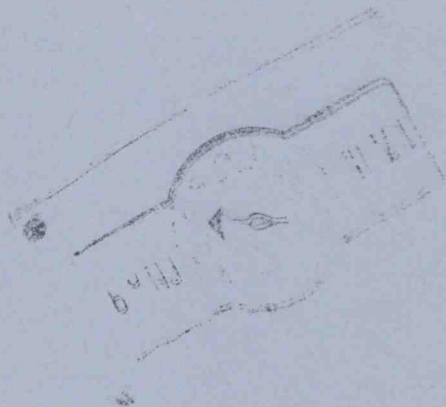
GH.

Enclosures flag(s)

SOVIET UNION :

Gorbachev visit

PT3





PC
Prime Minister

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

Low tactic
paid off!

10 February 1989

From the Private Secretary

The Times are
very grateful.

EB

mt

MR. GORBACHEV'S VISIT: PRESS INTERVIEWS

Mr. Kossov telephoned today to convey a message from Moscow about the possibility of Mr. Gorbachev giving an interview to a British newspaper before his visit to London. The message was that Mr. Gorbachev agreed to give an interview to the Times approximately a week before his visit and understood that the Prime Minister would likewise be willing to give an interview to Izvestia. He thought these interviews would help create a favourable climate for his visit. I said that this news would be very welcome. I would let him have a time for the Izvestia interview in due course.

Kossov said that they would be informing The Times on Monday. In fact they have already done so, but in strict confidence.

(C. D. POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



FILE
DA
PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

31 January 1989

MR. GORBACHEV'S VISIT: INTERVIEW WITH IZVESTIYA

bf || Thank you for your letter of 30 January proposing that the Prime Minister should give an interview to Izvestiya before Mr. Gorbachev's visit here. The Prime Minister would be ready in principle to give an interview to Mr. Laptev. But before agreeing, she thinks we ought to try and persuade Mr. Gorbachev to give an interview to a major British newspaper ahead of his visit, for instance The Times which has long had an application outstanding. I should be grateful if the Department could explore this possibility with the Soviet Ambassador hinting that it may have a bearing on the Prime Minister's readiness to give an interview to Izvestiya.

(C.D. POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Prime Minister

cc/pc (1)



If you agree to this, we should push out Mr. Gorbachev give an interview to a British paper (not the

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

30 January 1989

Jean Charles, (coming Mar!) Agree? CDP 307; 7

Mr Gorbachev's visit: Interview with Izvestiya

The Soviet Ambassador told the head of our Soviet Department on Friday that we would shortly be getting a request from the editor of the Soviet government newspaper Izvestiya, Mr Laptev, for an interview with the Prime Minister at some time of her choosing, not too long before Mr Gorbachev's visit. Mr Zamyatin asked if the Prime Minister might in principle be prepared to grant such an interview.

Izvestiya is the government's daily paper. It has a current circulation of 12 million or so. Of the two main dailies, it is at the present the more interesting and adventurous, and the more pro-reformist. In standard Soviet style the most likely form that the interview would taken when it reaches the pages of the newspaper is a verbatim account of the editor's conversation with the Prime Minister, possibly with a certain amount of scene-setting about No 10 and the forthcoming visit. On past form they are unlikely to edit it in any major way and certainly not take out points that they will know that the Prime Minister wishes to get across.

The Foreign Secretary recommends, therefore, that the Prime Minister should agree to do such an interview. If she were able to set aside a date and time to receive Mr Laptev, perhaps in mid-March or shortly before her departure for Africa, a suitable steer could be given to Mr Zamyatin.

John ...
Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



THE TIMES

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R2/3

ch

From the Editor

2 March 1989

Mr Charles Powell
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Charles,

I am enclosing a note thanking the Prime Minister for her personal leverage in fixing the Gorbachov interview for us (I haven't got it yet, but if one can rely on a Russian promise it is on the way).

You may have already passed on my verbal appreciation, but if you get a chance to let her glance at the note I would be more than grateful.

It was good to be able to talk to you the other evening. I hope all goes well with you.

Best wishes,

Charles

Charles Wilson