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28th February 1989

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe MP,
1 Carlton Gardens,
London,
SW1

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

Whatever else Gorbachev may be, he is brilliant at PR and I am increasingly concerned that he is succeeding in altering Western popular perceptions of the Soviet Union, sometimes without there being much supporting evidence for the changes.

I believe that the principal question for the West is whether the Soviet Union has abandoned some of the more aggressive of its fundamental international goals, or just changed its methods for achieving them or simply put them into abeyance for the time being because of its internal crisis. At present the indications are ambiguous.

Accordingly, I am organising a briefing under CFB auspices entitled 'Making Sense of Gorbachev' on March 30th, a few days before Gorbachev arrives in Britain principally to try to provide the British media with a deeper understanding of what is going on in the Soviet Union.

There will be four or five speakers including Dr Edward Luttwak who will speak on Soviet strategy; General Ted Atkeson who will speak on Soviet military doctrine; Dr Judith Shelton who will speak on the Soviet economy and Vladimir Bukovsky who will speak on the political situation in the Soviet Union. I hope that another, important Editor of a Soviet informal publication will be able to attend and I am trying to make arrangements for this now.

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I have invited newspaper editors and senior foreign policy staff from newspapers and television and radio. The speakers will present their papers and answer questions. I would be delighted if one or two of your senior officials would like to attend.

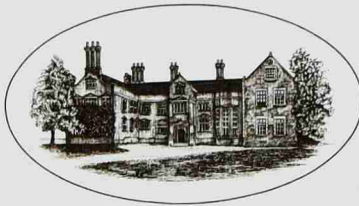
Alternatively, the briefing could be extended to a private afternoon session for Ministers and Officials if you thought it would be of interest to them. I would be able to circulate copies of the speakers' papers in advance to those who were going to attend the afternoon session so that they could prepare questions and so that the speakers could be excused presenting their papers twice in one day.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Hart', written in a cursive style.

DAVID HART

cc: Lord Harris

CAFPS



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Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street
London S W 1

21st April 1989

Dear Charles,

Gorbachev's Pan European All-Party Conference

I said yesterday that I thought that the EDU had been making the wrong noises about the above. In fact I now understand they have said nothing at all. I think it will be helpful if they did. They should publically oppose the conference until "multi partyism" (described by Gorbachev as rubbish) is established in the Soviet Union.

It would be very nice to see you and Carla here for or over one weekend, if you are ever allowed time off.

No need to acknowledge this.

David Hart