



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 March 1989

From the Secretary of State

Dear Bob

*CAF
15/3*

Thank you for your letter of 3 March about the exhibition of contemporary Soviet culture which you are arranging in April to coincide with Mr Gorbachev's visit.

We were interested to learn about this exhibition which certainly sounds as if it will be well worth visiting. I should like to take this opportunity to send my best wishes for its success.

The programme for Mr Gorbachev's visit, which we drew up with the Soviet authorities, has already been approved by Mr Gorbachev. It looks rather unlikely that Mr Gorbachev will have time to visit your exhibition but I expect that you will want to contact the Soviet Ambassador so that he can consult Mr and Mrs Gorbachev direct.

I am copying this letter to David Young (DTI), Richard Luce (Office of Arts and Libraries) and Charles Powell (No 10).

GEOFFREY HOWE

Robert Maxwell Esq MC

[Handwritten signature]

SOVIET UNION :

visits of Rubenstein

113

File MEMAJX



bcc: DTI
Aps

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

4 March 1989

From the Private Secretary

Dear Richard,

MR. GORBACHEV'S VISIT:
EXHIBITION OF SOVIET CULTURE

Robert Maxwell has sent me a copy of his letter to the Foreign Secretary about the Exhibition of Soviet Culture which he intends to organise in London during Mr. Gorbachev's visit. I suggest we leave it to the Russians to say whether they want Mr. & Mrs. Gorbachev to open this. Since they have told us that the present programme is final, I assume they are unlikely to do so.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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From The Chairman, Robert Maxwell MC
XM/IRM/PJ/lp/0489J/3

3 March 1989

The Rt Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC MP
Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
House of Commons
London SW1

Dear Secretary of State,

EXHIBITION OF SOVIET CULTURE, LONDON, APRIL 1989

I am writing to let you know, since your Department will be coordinating the programme for the visit next month of President Gorbachev, that in response to an informal request from the Soviet side, I have proposed formally to the Russians that I should mount at my expense an exhibition of contemporary Soviet culture to coincide with the Gorbachev visit. They have accepted; and we have asked that Mr. Gorbachev should visit and, if possible, open the Exhibition. The Russians have now asked that we should inform the appropriate British authorities of this proposal so that it can be noted as a candidate for inclusion in the President's programme.

The fuller background is set out in the attached copies of my letters to Alexander Yakovlev and Vladimir Falin at the Central Committee, to Nikolai Tchetverikov at VAAP and Georgy Miasnikov at the Cultural Foundation. Ambassador Zamyatin in London is also aware of these exchanges.

The venue for the Exhibition is being finalised this week; and I shall let you know as soon as it is confirmed, together with other relevant details. If you require any further information, please ask your officials to contact Peter Jay here. Meanwhile, for convenience I am sending copies of this letter and enclosures to David Young (DTI), Richard Luce (Arts) and Charles Powell (No. 10).

Yours sincerely,

cc: Rt Hon Lord Young, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Rt Hon Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts
Charles Powell, 10 Downing Street

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From The Chairman, Robert Maxwell MC

XM/IRM/PJ/lp/0488J/5

2 March 1989

Comrade Tchetverikov
Chairman
VAAP
6a Bolshaya Bronnaya
K-104 Moscow 103 670
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Dear Comrade Tchetverikov,

EXHIBITION OF SOVIET CULTURE, LONDON, APRIL 1989

Further to Peter Jay's fax to you on 27 February confirming that we shall cover all expenses of staging the Exhibition, a part from the provision of suitable materials from the Soviet Union and to current telephone discussions between your Mr. Federov and Ted Graham here, I write to confirm our request that by 10 March, 1989, you will supply us with an Agenda of the exhibits to be supplied.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter today to Comrade Miasnikov at the Cultural Foundation seeking also his contribution to the Exhibition, since it is most important that the field of the arts as well as the field of publishing is represented.

May I take this opportunity to confirm that, while we will bear all expenses of staging the Exhibition and for the provision of exhibits from the Soviet Union, the phrase "provision" must include transport and delivery to the London site?

With warmest best wishes.

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From The Chairman, Robert Maxwell MC

XM/IRM/PJ/lp/0485J/28

2 March 1989

Comrade Alexander Nikalayevich Yakovlev
Secretary to the Central Committee of
the Communist Party
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Staraya Pl 4
Moscow
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Dear Comrade Yakovlev

EXHIBITION OF SOVIET CULTURE IN LONDON IN APRIL 1989

Please forgive me for adding to the burden of correspondence recently addressed by me to your colleague, Comrade Falin, as well as to our good friends Miasnikov at the Cultural Foundation and Tchetverikov at VAAP. But I do most earnestly entreat your personal good offices in bringing to the attention of His Excellency, the President, our request that he will consent to open the "USSR in Process of Perestroika" Exhibition in London during his visit.

I proposed this exhibition last week to Comrades Falin and Tchetverikov and have received warm acceptance from Comrade Tchetverikov. I have also asked Miasnikov, with I hope the support of Falin, to let me know by 10 March of exhibits which the Foundation can contribute to the Exhibition. I hope this also will have your weighty support.

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From The Chairman, Robert Maxwell MC

XM/IRM/PJ/lp/0485J/16/17

BY FAX 010 70 95 2302203

1 March 1989

Comrade Vladimir Mihaelovitch Falin
Secretary for International Affairs
Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moscow USSR
Staraya Pl 4
Moscow
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Dear Comrade Falin,

PROPOSED SOVIET CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS TO CELEBRATE VISIT OF
PRESIDENT M S GORBACHEV, APRIL 1989

Further to my letter of 22 February, 1989, and to the confirmation that we have received from Comrade Chairman Tchetverikov at VAAP that our proposal is warmly accepted by the Soviet authorities, I write to entreat your good offices in one further vital feature of the Exhibition, namely that His Excellency, the President, will consent to open the Exhibition on 5 or 6 April during his visit to London.

I will be supplying you very soon with precise details of the intended venue and other arrangements in London for the Exhibition. I am confident that Comrade Tchetverikov at VAAP and Comrade Miasnikov at the Cultural Foundation, to both of whom I am also writing today, will be able to provide you with timely information about the exhibits which are being provided from the Soviet Union to illustrate the theme suggested by Comrade Tchetverikov of "The USSR in Process of Perestroika".

I shall be grateful for your earliest possible response to this request, because it is very important that we here arrange the most effective possible publicity for the Exhibition in order to attract the widest possible interest; and the opening by the President of the USSR will provide the keystone of that arch.

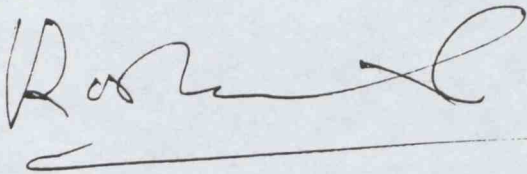
I shall also be most grateful for your personal support in securing a positive response to my letter to Comrade Miasnikov, seeking a contribution by the Cultural Foundation to the Exhibition of items representing Soviet art to complement the more commercial products that VAAP is likely to wish to show. It is very important that the Exhibition

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portrays the work of the Foundation in rediscovering Soviet art treasures, as well as the new wave in ideas and publications.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Comrade Chairman Tchetverikov at VAAP, to Comrade Miasnikov at the Cultural Foundation and (together with relevant previous correspondence) to His Excellency, Ambassador Zamyatin in London.

With warmest best wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "Rozin", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.



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From The Chairman, Robert Maxwell MC

XM/IRM/PJ/lp/0485J/15

1 March 1989

Mr. G. Miasnikov
Vice-Chairman
Cultural Foundation of the USSR
Gogolevsky Boulevard, 6
121019 Moscow
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Dear Comrade Miasnikov,

EXHIBITION OF SOVIET CULTURE, LONDON, APRIL 1989

I have been delighted to receive confirmation from our good friend, Comrade Chairman Tchetverikov at VAAP, that my proposal to mount urgently an Exhibition of Soviet Culture in London to coincide with the important visit from 5-7 April of His Excellency, the President of the USSR, has been accepted, with the warm further acquiescence of our good friend, Comrade Falin, at the International Department of the Central Committee.

For your convenience I enclose a copy of my earlier letter to Comrade Falin setting out my proposal. We have since agreed to concentrate our energies on the Exhibition in London, since the President's dates for possible visits to Paris and Rome are not yet known.

I now earnestly entreat your own active help and support. It is of the utmost importance that the Exhibition with its provisional title "The USSR in Process of Perestroika" should be fully worthy of the occasion of the President's visit. Indeed, we hope very much that the President himself will open it; and I shall be writing to Comrade Falin to ask him to convey this request.

I believe that our good friend Comrade Tchetverikov will be selecting Soviet cultural products in all areas of publishing. But it is equally important that contemporary Soviet arts are properly represented, for example by paintings and, perhaps, suitable ikons from your great collection. May I please ask, if you can join us in this important venture, that in liaison with Comrade Tchetverikov who is coordinating the provision of material from the Soviet Union for the Exhibition, you will inform us by 10 March of the exhibits which the Cultural Foundation would wish and is able to contribute? We hope very much that the Foundation will be personally represented at the opening.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Comrade Chairman Tchetverikov and to Comrade Falin at the Central Committee and to His Excellency, Ambassador Zamyatin in London.

Yours sincerely,

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