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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

19 March 1989

*From the Private Secretary**Dear Resident Clerk,*MR. GORBACHEV AND THE TIMES

I have now discussed with the Prime Minister the Russians' decision not to go ahead with Mr. Gorbachev's interview with The Times, and the possible implications for her own interview with Izvestia. She feels that we have done our best for The Times, but that they are in part to blame for the Russians' decision not to go ahead with the interview, because of their cartoon. Moreover, our own interest is in getting over our views to the Soviet audience rather than in seeing Mr. Gorbachev's views publicised here. She will not therefore attempt to preserve the linkage between the two interviews, but will go ahead with the Izvestia interview on 22 March as planned.

You will want to inform Sir Rodric Braithwaite of this. While he can continue to urge that Mr. Gorbachev should give an interview to a major British publication, he should not imply that the Prime Minister's interview with Izvestia is dependent on this.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Charles Powell*

CHARLES POWELL

The Resident Clerk,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.