

CONFIDENTIAL

*Rice Minister @  
Agree?  
CDD  
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PRIME MINISTER

11 April 1989

VISIT TO MOSCOW

Flag A. Rodric Braithwaite, our Ambassador in Moscow, has suggested that I might make a short visit to Moscow later this year. He thinks it could help the work of the Embassy in opening one or two doors and assist in our understanding of Soviet policies and the way in which the Soviet leadership receives co-ordinated advice on foreign affairs, security and defence.

I should be happy to go on this basis, though I do not overestimate my ability to cast light in dark places. Whether highly revealing or not, however, a visit at the present time would be fascinating.

I would of course go in my capacity as your Foreign Affairs Adviser.

I do not think we should seek meetings with the Soviet intelligence people and the Ambassador agrees.

The Foreign Office are content. The JIC rules permit the journey, provided I remain within the care of the Embassy, as I would.

Possible dates are June or October, more probably the latter.

I should be grateful for your agreement.

*You will recall  
other decisions to be  
made between now or  
then  
mt*

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PERCY CRADOCK

SIR PERCY CRADOCK

VISIT TO MOSCOW

The Prime Minister would have no objection in principle to your proposed visit to Moscow. But you will recall that certain decisions are to be taken in about a month's time which could make a visit less opportune and less welcome to the Soviet side, at least in the short term.

(C. D. POWELL)

12 April 1989

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH EMBASSY  
MOSCOWSir Percy Cradock GCMG  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AA

16 March 1989

*Dear Percy,*

1. When we met last month during Kamentsev's visit, I floated the thought that you might like to make a brief familiarisation visit to Moscow at a suitable moment. I did not have a chance to discuss this in the FCO, but am copying this letter to Patrick Wright, John Boyd and David Ratford.
2. You and they will obviously form your own view on the value of such a visit. But from the angle of this Embassy, I think it would be a useful addition to our schedule of contacts and consultations with the Russians this year, given the right timing. The Russians will undoubtedly have taken a close interest in your appointment to No.10, and will have a broad idea of the scope of your job, including your role in coordinating the Intelligence fraternity. I see this as an advantage, rather than the opposite. I think it would guarantee a high level of interest in seeing you, and perhaps access to parts of the Soviet machine that we reach infrequently, if at all. I would hope to use your visit to widen and reinforce the bridgehead we have been trying to make into the Central Committee. I would also expect senior MFA officials to want to meet you. (We would have to consider carefully how to respond to any suggestions of a meeting with the KGB. Although my American counterpart has called almost accidentally on Kryuchkov, my present inclination is that we should not rush into the same game. I am far from sure that the balance of advantage would lie on our side).  
Another area which you might explore would be the academic fringe of the Soviet policy-making machine - viz leading Institutes, such as IMEMO, the Institute of the United States and Canada, and the Institute of Europe. These people are much closer to the policy-making machinery here than their opposite numbers in London. It would be particularly useful if, through your visit, we could from a clearer impression of the way the Soviet leadership receives coordinated advice on foreign affairs, security and defence. At the moment, we can do little more than guess at the interplay between the Foreign Ministry, the Central Committee and related agencies.



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3. Since we met, I have looked at the schedule of visits for the remainder of the year. From now until the beginning of June, there is not much daylight. We have a window in the second and third weeks of June, btween two Ministerial visits. If you were able to come, that might be a good time. I would not recommend that you should come here between mid-July and mid-September, because of the Soviet holiday season. If mid-June is not possible, I hope that you might be able to come in the Autumn.

Yours ever,  
Rodric

Rodric Braithwaite

cc: Sir Patrick Wright KCMG, PUS  
D J E Ratford Esq CMG  
J Boyd Esq CMG

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