

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

The Russians now tell us that you have two quite distinct invitations to the Soviet Union, both issued by Mr Gorbachev.

One is for a working meeting in Kiev in June next year. Mr Gorbachev reckons he is doing you a favour by going to Kiev for the British Month and combining it with a meeting.

The other is for an official visit in late 1990 or early 1991.

This is not exactly how I had understood it. But I do see certain advantages in having two visits in the pipeline: having the second one in early 1991 could be quite attractive in relation to other possible events that year. I also see some advantage in pinning the Russians down to two separate visits before we take action on a certain matter in late May.

Agree that we should tell the Russians that you are happy with the concept of two separate visits, one to Kiev in June next year, the other to Moscow in late 1990 or early 1991?

CSP

Yes mb

CHARLES POWELL

23 April 1989

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From the Private Secretary

24 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO KIEV: JUNE 1990

Thank you for your letter of 22 April with the clarifications about Mr Gorbachev's various invitations to the Prime Minister. It is clear from what the Soviet Ambassador said that we are dealing with two quite distinct invitations: one to meet in Kiev during the British exhibition there in June next year; and another to pay a formal visit to Moscow - and perhaps elsewhere - in late 1990 or early 1991.

I have discussed this with the Prime Minister and she is content to think in terms of two separate visits, with the second more probably in early 1991. She also agrees that we should continue to plan for the Princess Royal to open the British Month in Kiev, with her own visit there taking place somewhat later in the month (we have not yet looked at precise dates).

I should be grateful if these points could be conveyed to the Soviet Government, with the Prime Ministers formal acceptance of both invitations.

C. D. POWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 April 1989

Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON

Dear Private Secretary,

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO KIEV: JUNE 1990

The Soviet Ambassador called on the Head of Soviet Department on 21 April prior to flying back to Moscow at the weekend for a plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee.

Zamyatin began by clarifying the Soviet invitation to the Prime Minister to meet Mr Gorbachev in Kiev. The invitation as conveyed by Deputy Foreign Minister Petrovsky was not, Zamyatin said, intended to replace the invitation which Mr Gorbachev had conveyed to the Prime Minister whilst riding with her in the car during his recent visit, to pay a formal visit to Moscow. This invitation was regarded as separate and Mr Gorbachev's view was that the Prime Minister might care to take it up in late 1990 or early 1991. The Kiev visit was seen as a "working meeting". The Russians envisaged the Prime Minister travelling direct to Kiev, taking Mr Gorbachev around the British exhibition, and holding talks with him at some suitable location in Kiev. The visit might last two days. It would be up to the Prime Minister whether her visit coincided with the opening of the British Month or took place later.

Simon Hemans told Zamyatin that this was news to us. We had assumed that the invitation was intended to mean that either before or after the visit to Kiev the Prime Minister would be in Moscow for talks. He undertook to seek a reaction from the Prime Minister to what was now being proposed.

Hemans also mentioned to Zamyatin informally the probability that The Princess Royal would be opening the British Month.

/Clearly

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Clearly it would not be appropriate for both Princess Anne and the Prime Minister to be in Kiev together for the opening. Zamyatin said that the Soviet side had no particular preference in terms of whether Mr Gorbachev's meeting with Mrs Thatcher coincided with the opening or not.

I should be grateful for an indication of the Prime Minister's wishes as to whether she would prefer to combine substantive talks with Kiev or go for two separate visits. I should also welcome her confirmation that it is still her preference that The Princess Royal should open the Month and that her own visit would follow later.

For your information Zamyatin also said that once the Supreme Soviet was in session he expected instructions to pursue the question of a date for a visit by The Queen. Hemans told Zamyatin that his understanding was that The Queen's programme would probably rule out a visit much before 1992 but that as yet no firm view had been taken. Zamyatin was quite relaxed about this and merely repeated that he would be under instructions to discuss it further some time in the summer.

Yours ever

T. M. (Resident Clerk)

JP.

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

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London SW1A 2AH

C D Powell Esq
 Private Secretary
 No 10, Downing Street
 LONDON

19 April 1989

c.c. Mr Hughes
ESD
14/4

Dear Charles,

PRIME MINISTER'S NEXT VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

1. There is some confusion in some of today's British newspapers as to whether the message conveyed to the Prime Minister yesterday, 18 April, by Mr Petrovsky (to meet Mr Gorbachev in Kiev in June 1990) supercedes the invitation to Moscow issued here by Mr Gorbachev himself on 7 April. In case it is helpful, my own note of Petrovsky's words reads as follows:

Greetings from Gorbachev. Confirms invitation to meet in 1990 in Moscow. Decision taken that the British Week in Kiev will take place in June 1990. Gorbachev will be in Kiev and will meet you there.

2. That appears to imply a first meeting in Kiev followed by talks in Moscow. Petrovsky was of course speaking in English, but I am sure he was choosing his words with care.

Yours ever,
Tony Bishop

K A Bishop
 Soviet Section
 Research Department

cc: PS/Secretary of State
 Mr Hemans, Soviet Department
 Mr Burns, News Department

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