

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

Although it is still a long way off, the FCO are keen to pin down dates in Gorbachev's diary for the meeting in Kiev in June 1990.

The "Britain in Kiev" event will open on Monday 4 June 1990. The idea remains that The Princess Royal would carry out the opening of the main exhibition. The FCO's proposal is that you should go there during what is described as the cultural centrepiece of the Festival, that is performances by the English National Opera, between 7 and 10 June. The idea is that you would invite Mr. Gorbachev both to visit the exhibition and attend a performance of the opera.

I am not so sure that you will be happy with the choice of programme: it is either Handel's Xerxes or Britten's Turn of the Screw. I do not think Mr. Gorbachev would enjoy the latter, but I understand that the production of Xerxes is highly praised.

More importantly, I think it would be wise to assure yourself that the exhibition will be of sufficient quality to justify your showing Mr. Gorbachev around it. It would be awful to show him something second rate.

I suggest, therefore, that I should write back to say that you want to know much more about the exhibition before committing yourself to this idea.

Agree?

C D?

C. D. POWELL
27 April 1989

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bc PC



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

28 April 1989

From the Private Secretary

PA
 Dear Leonard,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

BC | I have consulted the Prime Minister about points in your letter of 27 April about her visit to the Soviet Union next year. Before reaching a decision about Kiev, she wants to know much more about the nature and quality of the exhibition which is being organised. She would only wish to meet Mr. Gorbachev in Kiev and show him around the exhibition if she can be sure that it is of sufficiently high quality and interest. There would be nothing worse than to show Mr. Gorbachev something second-rate. I should be grateful if you could let me have a much fuller account of the nature of the exhibition.

Yours sincerely,
 Charles Powell

CHARLES D. POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office

KIC



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27 April 1989

Jean Charles,

Visits to the Soviet Union by the Prime Minister

You will have seen Moscow telegram numbers 701 and 702 (copies attached). There would indeed appear to have been some poor staff work on the Soviet side. And to this we must now add a further twist from the Head of the Second European Department of the Soviet MFA, Uspensky (who acted as interpreter at the Prime Minister's talks with Mr Gorbachev).

Uspensky told Simon Hemans on 25 April that the Soviet understanding was that there were indeed two invitations, one to visit the Soviet Union during the British event in Kiev in June 1990, and the other (which was not as precise as Mr Zamyatin had said) to make an official visit at an unspecified later date which could be discussed either when the two leaders met in June 1990, or agreed through diplomatic channels later. He added a further complication by pointing out that the invitation for June 1990 did not specify that the meeting would necessarily take place in Kiev. This was one possibility and the Russians were aware of our obvious preference for a Kiev meeting, but it could not be definite at this stage and had been carefully expressed as taking place "in the framework" of the Prime Minister's visit to the British event in Kiev.

We are now putting to the Russians a proposal that the event which in English will be called "Britain in Kiev" should open on Monday 4 June 1990. The cultural centrepiece will as you know be performances by the English National Opera who plan to be in Kiev from 7 to 10 June. It would obviously maximise the impact if the Prime Minister were able to invite Mr Gorbachev both to visit the exhibition and to attend a performance.

On the assumption that it would be best to separate the Prime Minister's visit by a few days from that of The Princess Royal, perhaps we could aim at the Saturday evening performance on 9 June of Handel's Xerxes. The alternative on the Sunday evening of Britten's Turn of the Screw (the only other work on the programme for Kiev) is perhaps less likely to appeal to Mr Gorbachev. If the Prime Minister agrees to try for 9 June we shall try to have the idea pencilled into Mr Gorbachev's diary once the opening date is agreed.

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We are assuming that for the moment the Prime Minister will be content to leave the second visit in suspense on the basis of an invitation given and accepted for a time to be later agreed. The Foreign Secretary sees no need to announce the possibility at this stage.

Yours ever,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

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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