

SECRET AND PERSONAL



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(Sb)

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 May 1989

GORDIEVSKY

Thank you for your letter of 16 May about the Soviet request to meet Gordievsky. The Prime Minister has noted the action proposed and is content.

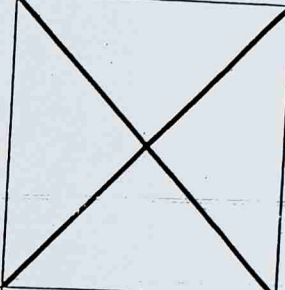
I am copying this letter to Colin Walters (Home Office).

C. D. Powell

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

A The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>2873</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>Letter from Wall to Lowell dated 16 May 1989</i>	
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cc PC
BT



PRESS LINE: GORDIEVSKY

- confirm that we have raised the case of Gordievsky's wife and two young daughters with the Russians a number of times, and at a number of levels, on a humanitarian basis as a family reunification case.
 - we have pressed the Russians for a long time to resolve all Anglo/Soviet family reunification cases and have made considerable progress. This is most welcome.
 - what we have proposed for the Gordievsky family is that they should all meet in Britain to decide their future.
 - Britain has placed no obstacles in the way of families of British defectors who wish to visit the USSR.
 - it is neither surprising nor embarrassing that we should have raised this with the Russians, who have an obligation undertaken at the recent Vienna CSCE meeting to allow family members to travel.
 - not prepared to go into further details.
- [If asked whether Prime Minister/Foreign Secretary will raise this during Mr Gorbachev's visit]
- cannot go into details of what the Prime Minister/Foreign Secretary will raise but cannot exclude that this will be one of the subjects.

As necessary