

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Office of the  
Leader of The Opposition

26 May 1989

IN CONFIDENCE

Dear Sir Geoffrey

I understand that on the BBC's Nine O'Clock News last night, John Sergeant reported that senior British sources were briefing to the effect that one main reason for the expulsion of Soviet diplomats from Britain was that Labour Members of Parliament were under threat of blackmail.

I am writing strictly on Privy Council terms to ask you what - if anything - is the basis of these reports.

It has been the long-standing practice that the relevant Party Leader is informed if allegations of this kind are made but, as you will know, I have received no information of any kind about this matter from your Department, from the Security Services or from any other source.

I do think that I should at the very least be given the necessary background information and I am sure that, on reflection, you will agree.

I will, of course, provide any co-operation that is appropriate in these matters.

Yours sincerely

PP 

RT HON NEIL KINNOCK MP  
(Dictated by Mr Kinnock but signed in his absence)

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe MP  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Rt Hon Neil Kinnock, MP  
2A Clovelly Road  
London  
W5


26 May 1989

*Dear Mr Kinnock*

Thank you for your letter of 26 May about a story in the media suggesting that the Soviet nationals whose expulsion we have ordered were subjecting Labour MPs to blackmail.

This story, about the reasons for the expulsion of the Soviet nationals in question, owes nothing to any official briefing. I can assure you that there has been no suggestion of any association of Labour MPs in the activities for which the Soviet diplomats and other Soviet nationals are being expelled.

You wrote to me in Privy Councillor terms and this reply therefore comes to you on the same basis. But I should have no objection if you wished to publicise this exchange.

*Yours sincerely*  


F Gordon, Resident Clerk

Approved by the Foreign  
Secretary and signed in  
his absence from London.

Mr. Poyser



~~Do you  
Please let  
me know  
when  
offer  
is~~

Mr Kinnoch's office will contact  
PS/S of S if Mr Kinnoch wishes  
to publicise the exchange (para 3).  
Press Offices are under instruction

*With the compliments of*  
not to release details until

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
LONDON, SW1A 2AH

they hear further.

Resident Clerks  
26/5