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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 01-218 2111/3

MO 6/18/4V

16 June 1989

Y R. Hawtin

Agree to see him?

CDN 17/6

Dear Charles,

VISIT OF SOVIET DEFENCE MINISTER TO THE UK

You will recall that, as a further step in our gradual resumption of defence contacts with the Soviet Union, the possibility of a meeting between the Defence Secretary and the Soviet Defence Minister, General Yazov was raised during Mr Gorbachev's visit to the UK in April. The Soviets were interested and enquired through our Defence Attache in Moscow whether General Yazov could make an official visit to the UK in July. In response, we have offered 25th-28th July as possible dates, with a fall-back in September. We are still waiting to hear from Moscow whether these dates will be acceptable, although the Embassy's view is that, barring unforeseen developments, Yazov will come in July.

We have, therefore, worked up an outline programme which provides an opportunity for discussions and for visits to each of the three Services. We also hope that Yazov might be prepared to give a speech at Chatham House. There are obvious security constraints to what we can do, but it is nevertheless possible to provide an interesting programme (and we hope that in doing so the Soviets will reciprocate during a return visit.) A copy of the outline programme is attached.

You will note that the programme includes a call on the Foreign Secretary. I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister would also wish to meet General Yazov, perhaps on 25th or 28th July.

I am copying this letter to Richard Gozney (FCO) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Your sincerely,
Brian Hawtin

(B R HAWTIN)
Private Secretary

Charles Powell Esq
No 10 Downing Street

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ANNEX A

OUTLINE PROGRAMME FOR VISIT OF GEN YAZOV (PROVISIONAL)

25th July Tuesday

* 10.15	Arrive Heathrow
* 11.15	Guard of Honour at MOD
* 11.30-12.00	Tete a tete in MOD
12.15 for 12.45	Lunch at Lancaster House
14.00-16.00	Plenary talks at Lancaster House
16.00-17.00	Press Conference at Lancaster House (tbc)
17.30	Call on FCS

Evening social engagement in London

* Times could be earlier if Yazov arrives on 24th July

26th July Wednesday

08.00	Leave hotel
08.30	Leave Heathrow
10.00	Arrive RAF Leuchars
10.00-12.00	Tour and display
12.00	Depart Leuchars (Lunch on board)
13.00	Arrive Stornoway
13.15	Depart by helicopter for CVS at sea
13.45	Arrive CVS
13.45-15.45	Tour of ship
15.45	Depart CVS by helicopter
16.15	Arrive Stornoway
16.30	Depart Stornoway
17.15	Arrive Edinburgh airport
17.45	Hotel in Edinburgh
1930 for 2000.	Edinburgh Castle dinner hosted by GOC Scotland

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27th July Thursday

08.30 Depart Edinburgh
09.30 Arrive Heathrow
10.15 Arrive Aldershot (met by CINC UKLF)
10.30 - 12.45 Briefing and display at Parachute Regt Depot.
Opportunity to talk to officers and men and visit accommodation.
13.00 Arrive RMA Sandhurst
Lunch hosted by Commandant
14.30 Visit to Academy and cadets under training
16.30 Depart for London
Evening Soviet reception

28th July Friday

09.30 Final call on Secretary of State
10.30-11.30 Speech at Chatham House
12.00 Either Soviets depart for Moscow
Or lunch (at Royal Hospital?) and depart
1415

NB. Call on PM may need to be fitted in.

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*File to
be PC*

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 June, 1989.

VISIT OF THE SOVIET DEFENCE MINISTER
TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Thank you for your letter of 16 June about the possible visit of General Yazov at the end of July. The Prime Minister will certainly wish to see him if he comes, and I should be grateful if you could be in touch with Mrs. Ponsonby about a possible time.

I am copying this letter to Richard Gozney (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

(C.D. Powell)

Brian Hawtin, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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