

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH ROBERT CONQUEST

You have a slot in the diary tomorrow for Bob Conquest. He has just come from a visit to the Soviet Union and is brimful of things to tell you. In the light of some of the reports we have had, you might seek his assessment of the scale of the Soviet Union's economic difficulties and the prospects of overcoming them; and of how far Gorbachev may be at risk from the military.

ms

C.D.D.

CHARLES POWELL

4 July 1989



10 DOWNING STREET

Maules

352
2334

From the file I can see
no indication that the two
are aware of Robert
Langford's meeting with the
Prime Minister on Wednesday.

NO
{ Is this correct, or are you
expecting briefing from the two?
grateful for your advice before
I close anyway.

3 July 1989

Patricia

Soviet Union
meets with Robert Conquest

(2)

HOOVER INSTITUTION

ON WAR, REVOLUTION AND PEACE

Stanford, California 94305-6010



Prime Minister

Just what Gorbachev said, too

17 April 1989

CDP 21/4

Dear Charles

just to say that July 4 will be fine -- though I'll have spoken to you before you get this.

Also I must pass on an absolutely critical remark (which you may well have heard from other sources) by Oleg Bogomolov, one of the leading economists of the new period - (Head of the Institute on the Economies of the Socialist Countries in Moscow). He said, and repeated in public here the other day, in answer to a question on how the West could help perestroika, that investment in joint companies, investment in free enterprise zones, and assistance in the training of management, would all be fine. "But", he added, "Don't give us credits !".

Credits, he argued, had done Poland no good. In Russia too, they could only postpone and aggravate the systemic crisis .

This goes greatly against the stuff talked by some of the Western banks !

I thought the Prime Minister handled the Gorbachev visit superbly. I am much looking forward to seeing her, and yourself, in July - I hope with some insights from my own Moscow visit. (They tell me they've hired a huge hall for my public appearance - we'll see: but all my contacts are extremely forthcoming, I must say). Leningrad and Tbilisi too, unless the latter's still closed .

Splendid picture of the Prime Minister
& you in Harare !
Yours ever
Bob