

STRICTLY PERSONAL



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. 137a/89

SUBJECT.  
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Master.

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

24 July, 1989.

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mr. President.

We are very much looking forward to the visit of Defence Minister Yazov beginning on 25 July. It will be a most important step forward in our relations.

I want to alert you personally to one point about the visit. We are today carrying out a number of Ministerial changes in our Government. One result of these is that our Defence Minister, George Younger, will be announcing his retirement. However, he will remain in office for the period of General Yazov's visit and will act as his host, while taking the opportunity to introduce his successor, Tom King.

I wanted you to be absolutely clear that the timing of these changes is purely coincidental, and no discourtesy whatever is intended. Nor do the changes in any way diminish the importance which we attach to the visit. It should go ahead exactly as planned. I shall myself be seeing General Yazov, and look forward to a very full and substantial discussion with him.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely

Raymond Stober

President Mikhail Gorbachev

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SECRET AND STRICTLY PERSONAL



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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

23 July 1989

I enclose a copy of a message from the Prime Minister to Mr. Gorbachev which should be delivered on the afternoon of 24 July in Moscow to his office. The text should go by DEYOU telegram to our Ambassador in Moscow (or his deputy) and receive no distribution.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence).

CHARLES POWWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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