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*From the Private Secretary*

6 September 1989

Lord Carrington approached me this morning on what he described as a delicate matter. Apparently there is some major cultural manifestation in Istanbul this autumn in which both Christies and Sotheby's (among others) are taking part. Lord Carrington has heard that our Consulate General are organising a cocktail party for or on behalf of (I am not sure which) Sotheby's. He thinks this is a bit off: first because Sotheby's are not the only firm taking part, and second because it is anyway an American owned firm. He does not want to make a great fuss about this or seem to be putting one in the eye of Grey Gowrie. (In fact that is precisely what he does want to do, but does not want Lord Gowrie to know!) He wondered whether I would look into it.

I do not know whether the facts are exactly as described. Usually there is another side to this sort of story. But you may think it right to have discreet enquiries made. If there is a cocktail party, perhaps Christies could be invited too.

Charles Powell

Sir Patrick Wright, GCMG

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