

SECRET

2(a-b) *cf Bayley* <sup>9</sup>



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 September 1989

*Dear Charles,*

*mf*

*mp*

Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Gorbachev: Ceilings

In your letter of 13 September recording the Prime Minister's meeting with Sir Rodric Braithwaite, you asked for a brief note which the Prime Minister could hand to Mr Gorbachev setting out objectively the numbers of Embassy staff and others in London and Moscow respectively.

I enclose a note prepared by our Soviet Department. This could be handed over to Mr Gorbachev, if the Prime Minister wishes. You may, however, wish to bear in mind that handing over a piece of paper now would give the Russians a chance between then and the Foreign Secretary's meeting with Mr Shevardnadze in New York to produce counter-figures. We do not know what figures the Russians are working on but they will certainly wish to present to Shevardnadze a case which suggests that we are deliberately distorting things, which we are not. It might be best to face Shevardnadze with our facts without his having been biased against them beforehand.

*Jans,*  
*Stephen Wall*

(J S Wall)  
Private Secretary

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SECRET

COMPARISON OF SOVIET NUMBERS IN LONDON AND BRITISH NUMBERS  
IN MOSCOW

British Embassy  
British media  
British businessmen  
128

Soviet Embassy  
Soviet media  
Soviet businessmen  
205

Local staff employed  
by the above  
215

approximate  
figures

Local staff employed  
by the above  
410

Total of all British  
citizens resident in  
the Soviet Union  
314

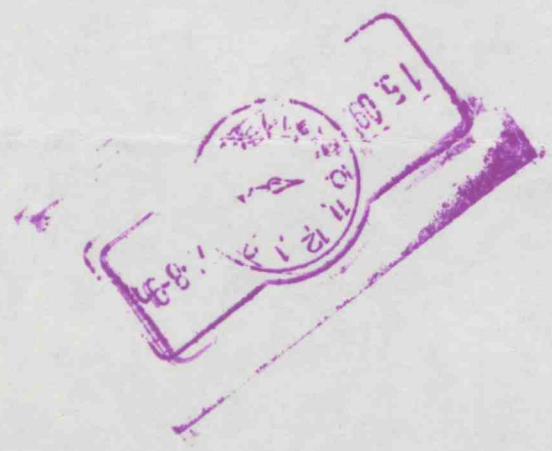
approximate  
figures

Total of all Soviet  
citizens resident in  
Britain  
343

Total British community  
and local staff  
529

Total Soviet community  
and local staff  
753

SOVIET UNION: P.M. V. 1973





10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*me h*  
*CEILINGS*  
*atc*

13 September 1989

*From the Private Secretary*

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION: CEILINGS

The Prime Minister discussed briefly with Sir Rodric Braithwaite this evening how she should handle the question of ceilings on Embassy staff in her meetings with Mr. Gorbachev.

The Prime Minister agreed that the matter would have to be raised, but any attempt to go into detail should be avoided. The aim should be agreement to instruct Foreign Ministers and officials to sort out the problem on a reasonable and reciprocal basis. It might be helpful to have a very brief note, which the Prime Minister could hand to Mr. Gorbachev, setting out objectively the numbers of Embassy staff and others in London and Moscow respectively.

I imagine that you will be covering this in your briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

C. D. POWELL

J. S. Wall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.