



HM AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MR CHERNYAEV, FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER TO
PRESIDENT GORBACHEV, 18 SEPTEMBER 1989

The Ambassador explained that he had requested a call on Mr Chernyaev, in order to have some guidance on Soviet preparations for the Prime Minister's stop-over on 23 September. Mr Chernyaev agreed it was useful to exchange notes. Although Mr Gorbachev was pre-occupied with the Plenum and the Supreme Soviet Session, he regularly asked Mr Chernyaev what the Prime Minister might wish to raise.

Mr Chernyaev gave some details of the programme for 23 September, which have been included in the revised draft programme.

Mr Chernyaev thought that Mr Gorbachev would want to have a free agenda, so that the talks could flow naturally and the two leaders discuss whatever they wanted. Arms Control, in particular the negotiations on conventional forces in Vienna, would be in the front of Mr Gorbachev's mind. He would probably take the opportunity to brief the Prime Minister on Soviet views of the START negotiations and on Mr Shevardnadze's concurrent trip to Washington. President Gorbachev would probably also refer to Chemical Weapons.

Mr Chernyaev thought that if Mr Gorbachev discussed regional affairs he would want to raise Africa, Afghanistan and Europe. He would be interested in the recent developments in Eastern Europe particularly. The Ambassador commented that the Prime Minister was following developments in East and West Germany with great interest. Mr Chernyaev agreed that one could say that the Post-War period had ended, the Cold War was indeed over. The two leaders would have something to talk about on this subject.

The Ambassador said that the Prime Minister remained just as interested as ever in the progress of Perestroika. She was calling on President Gorbachev between the Nationalities Plenum and the important legislative Session of the Supreme Soviet. The Ambassador suggested that she might be interested in hearing how President Gorbachev saw his strategy for handling the political, economic and social elements of his programme. Mr Chernyaev replied that Mr Gorbachev remained calm. Perestroika was a revolution, and the directions it would take had been predictable, although some of the concrete forms could not have been guessed. The economic problems had reached a much more difficult degree than might have been expected. However the political changes in this country which arose out of the economic situation had now developed their own logic and momentum. Mr Chernyaev implied that the Leadership were happy with the progress towards democratisation.

X) Mr Chernyaev said that President Gorbachev would be very interested to see whether the Prime Minister's views had changed since they last met in April. There had been a number of important events since, both in bilateral relations and in Mr Gorbachev's contacts with other Leaders. The

/Ambassador



Ambassador asked if he had the May events in his mind. Chernyaev asked keenly whether the Prime Minister would want to discuss this. The Ambassador said that he did not know Mrs Thatcher's latest thinking. He briefly described the inconclusive official negotiations in August about which Mr Chernyaev seemed unbriefed. These had concluded with a renewed Soviet threat to the staff of the British Embassy. If that happened, it would produce a most unfortunate political effect. Mr Chernyaev thought that it had been agreed that the matter would be discussed between the Foreign Secretary and Mr Shevardnadze in New York. The Ambassador commented that officials would need very clear and authoritative political guidance for the next round of talks if they were to succeed.

In conclusion the Ambassador asked when the extraordinary package of economic measures about which Mr Gorbachev had recently spoken on TV would be published. Chernyaev said that they would be presented to the Congress of People's Deputies in December. In the meantime the Supreme Soviet would be busy passing fundamental laws on property rights, and other basic economic issues, without which the package would be ineffective.

18 September 1989

Charles

Cherayager gave us
useful additional
info on the program,
which is being given
to Bette D.

Attached is note about
other aspects of the
conclusion, I thought
him still slightly
apprehensive that
the expulsions reflected
a change in the PM's
attitude. (see *).

R

(Bette has the top
copy of this)

(PS: Will is helping some
nurs rebuild a ruined
convent in Yaroslavl,
but will be here when you
get back)

Duch Patricia

10 DOWNING STREET

Yes

Ed

Charles

Rodric Braitwaite rang from Moscow. 3 small points.

He proposed that his wife, Gill, want come to the airport on Monday to say farewell to the PM. She plans on being 150 miles north of Moscow that day. He didn't think the PM would mind.

Also, he proposes to follow precedent for the talks on Saturday which is to say restrict UK membership to PM, you and an interpreter (ie. no Rodric B.)

Finally, for the lunch
do you likewise want to assume
no Rodric?

He adds that he will plan on
the above basis unless you
(or we) ring to say otherwise.

Content?

Leah

15/9/89