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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 April 1990

Prime Minister

Dear Charles,

Yes not

Agree that Rank Xerox should co-host with

Prime Minister's visit to the Soviet Union:
English National Opera Gala Evening in Kiev

*HMG?
—
CDD*

We should be grateful for your guidance on a point concerning this event. Planning has proceeded so far on the assumption that the reception after the gala performance of Xerxes would be co-hosted, and partly paid for, by Rank Xerox, who are substantial sponsors of the ENO tour in the Soviet Union. Sir Rodric Braithwaite has now queried this on the grounds that the importance of the occasion, with the possibility that Mr Gorbachev will attend, makes it inappropriate to associate commercial sponsors with the hospitality. Sir Rodric has recommended that the reception should be given by HMG and that recognition should be accorded to Rank Xerox's role in publicity and/or in a speech by the Prime Minister.

The British Council are keen that Rank Xerox should receive, and be seen to receive, maximum benefit from their sponsorship of the ENO tour. Rank Xerox are not only putting up a record sum (£150,000) for this tour but are playing a key role in the development of the British Council's wider corporate funding plans by subscribing nearly £1 million to a 4-year programme. The Council hope that Rank Xerox will be able to co-host the party.

We share the Council's view. It is in keeping with government policy that major commercial patrons of the arts abroad should be given their public due. The Prime Minister herself contributed to the British Council's sponsorship campaign. There is the additional point in the present case that one of the stated objectives of British Days in the Soviet Union (Kiev, June 1990) is to demonstrate the functioning of a free economy in a democratic society. We therefore have nothing to hide in our relationship with commercial sponsors.

Before replying in this sense to the Ambassador, we should be grateful for confirmation that you agree. If so, we would propose that the invitation to the Gala evening would be sent out in the names of "The Ambassador and Lady Braithwaite, the Chairman of the British Council and Lady Orr and the Chairman of Rank Xerox and Mrs Thompson".

Jany, Stephen Wall
(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 April 1990

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION:
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA GALA EVENING IN KIEV

Thank you for your letter of 23 April about the gala performance of Xerxes in Kiev. The Prime Minister would be perfectly content for the Government and Rank Xerox to be co-hosts for the occasion and for the invitations to be sent out in the form proposed in your letter.

Charles Powell

Stephen Wall Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Prime Minister

ENO PERFORMANCE OF XERXES: 9 JUNE

LIST OF GUESTS IN VIP BOX

Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher
Mr and Mrs V A Masol
Mr N P Laverov
The Right Honourable Kenneth Baker MP
Sir Jeffrey Sterling
HM Ambassador and Lady Braithwaite
HE Zamyatin
Mrs M A Orlik, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers
Mr and Mrs Y A Olenenko, Minister of Culture, Ukraine
Mr Powell
Mr Turnbull
Mrs Crawford
Mr Pollock