

MR. BEAN

cc Mr. Ingham

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

Thank you for your note of 14 May about the Prime Minister's visit to the Soviet Union. I am grateful for the work which has gone into it. But there are still some points which we shall need to discuss further with the FCO and the Embassy in Moscow. The main ones are as follows:

- we are approaching Gorbachev's office to seek his views on the possibility of a meeting between the Prime Minister and senior military men. It is not very likely that he will agree. But if he does, it will be an important part of the visit presentationally and we shall have to fit it in. One possibility might be instead of the media interviews at 1730 on the first day. An alternative would be over breakfast on the first or second day;
- a proper Soviet media event is important. We could get over this by giving a substantial interview before the Prime Minister's departure from the UK: but it would require them to send over some interviewers (the man here is too respectful). Alternatively we could do it at 1730 if there is no meeting with the military. I would have thought it sufficient for the British media to pick up the joint press conference;
- I am concerned that we have no opportunity for the Prime Minister to meet dissidents of any sort, as she did in 1987. She should not be any less active on this front. Again a breakfast meeting seems the only practical possibility;
- the interest of the Kiev programme largely stands or falls on Gorbachev's participation. The afternoon is very full and we may have to drop the monastery to leave enough time for the rest;

- is there no way we can reduce the time at the Opera, so that the Prime Minister attends only the last act and the reception? She has done that before, for instance in Brisbane. The time saved could be used for the Soviet media event: or simply to recuperate;

- the programme for Leninakan is fine although some of the timings are improbably short. We might drop the Ani redevelopment area.

You might like a word about these points before I write to the FCO.

C.P.P.

CHARLES POWELL

14 May 1990

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MR POWELL

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION: 7 - 10 JUNE

Programme

I attach a draft programme for the visit to Moscow, Kiev and Leninakan next month, compiled in light of our visit to the Soviet Union last week. The programme has been drawn up in consultation with the Soviet Protocol Department, but they may well have additional comments and changes, particularly over the Moscow leg of the trip.

We received a firm indication that there would be a joint Press Conference (in Moscow on the 8th), and a guarded indication that Gorbachev was likely to accompany the Prime Minister to Kiev. (Our Embassy in Moscow are pursuing this, and pressing for early confirmation.) The official visit can not start, however, until the Prime Minister has been formally received by Gorbachev. Due to the late arrival on 7 June, this is scheduled for 1040 on the 8th. Gorbachev can not make it any earlier, but the Soviet authorities were relaxed about the Prime Minister undertaking a British orientated engagement before she sees Gorbachev.

The programme is a hectic one, and several of the original proposals

have had to be dropped. In Moscow, the idea of visiting a Soviet Co-operative (of dubious value, in any case) was not pursued. In Kiev, the suggestion that the Prime Minister visit an ICI farm has

also had to be shelved. The Soviet authorities were not happy at transporting the Prime Minister by helicopter (for "security" reasons), and a road journey (over an hour each way, for a 20-30 minute visit) is ruled out because of lack of time. However, ICI should be mollified by the Princess Royal's visit to their farm (by car) on 4 or 5 June. Finally, the idea of the Prime Minister visiting an Aid Armenia project in Kirovakan proved not to be a starter. Again there were difficulties over travel, with the same objection to a helicopter being raised as for ICI above, and in any case there seems to be genuine doubt that Aid Armenia would be ready for a foundation stone ceremony next month (the old, unstable building is still standing and no work has yet begun on its demolition).

We received a half-hearted request, before our visit to Leninakan, for the Prime Minister to also visit Erevan, the Armenian state capital. This appears to have been dropped following discussions

on the visit to Leninakan. To have taken this in would have meant a very late return to London on the 10th, and it is probably just as well it was not pursued.

The Soviet authorities have agreed to provide an aircraft for the press. Given that Armenia has been closed to journalists (and diplomats), there is likely to be considerable interest in the visit there.

Apart from her lunch, which is not really a suitable occasion, in Kiev, there is nowhere for the Prime Minister to make a major speech during her visit. If she wants to undertake an interview with the Soviet media, the only realistic slot would be later in the afternoon of Friday 8 June (after the Press Conference), recorded for broadcast on the 9th. This would mean she could not do any British TV/radio interviews after the Press Conference, but there would be scope for a more substantial than normal doorstep in Armenia (and also, to a lesser extent, in Kiev) later in the trip.

Are you content, please, with the attached revised programme, and would you want us to plan on the Prime Minister doing an interview with the Soviet media?

Peter Bean

PETER BEAN
Press Office
14 May 1990

Kiev

THURSDAY 7 JUNE

- 2220 Arrive Moscow: Arrival Ceremony (to include Honour Guard)
- 2235 Depart Airport in motorcade for HM Ambassador's Residence
- 2255 Arrive Residence: overnight

FRIDAY 8 JUNE

- 0905 Depart Ambassador's Residence for Mossoviet
- 0915 Arrive Mossoviet: Presentation by the Carroll Group on their proposals for new British/Soviet Trade Centre
- 0945 Depart Mossoviet for Residence
- 1032 Depart for the Kremlin
- 1040 Official Reception Ceremonies
- 1050 Depart for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- 1055 Lay wreath
- 1102 Return to the Kremlin
- 1105 Talks with President Gorbachev
- 1300 Working lunch hosted by the President
- 1430 Lunch ends: Drive to the Residence
- 1500 Return to the Kremlin: talks with Prime Minister Ryzkhov
- 1605 Signing Ceremony (Long Term Economic and Industrial Cooperation, etc)
- 1630 Joint Press Conference
- 1715 Conference ends: return to the Residence
- 1720 Arrive Residence
- 1730 Media interviews
- 1820 Change for dinner
- 1918 Leave Embassy for the Kremlin
- 1920 Arrive: met and escorted to the St Vladimir's Hall. With President Gorbachev, greet other dinner guests
- 1930 Dinner

c2100 Dinner ends
Depart for the Residence: overnight

SATURDAY 9 JUNE

0830 Leave Residence for Airport

0855 Arrive Airport: farewells

0900 Depart by air for Kiev

1015 Arrive Kiev Airport: arrival ceremonies

1025 Leave Airport for British Exhibitions

1100 Arrive Park of Economic Achievements: tour British Life Exhibition

1130 Walk to Trade Exhibition: possibility of stopping en route to greet crowds lining the road. Short doorstep interviews with Ukrainian TV and reporters? (5 minutes?)

1140 Tour British Trade Exhibition

1210 Signature Ceremony: John Brown Joint Venture

1220 Walk to Pavillion 3: Presentation of Scholarships to Ukrainian students

1235 Depart Exhibition Site for Kiev Hotel

1250 Arrive Hotel: Opportunity to freshen up

1312 Leave Hotel for Marienski Palace

1315 Lunch hosted by Ukrainian Authorities

1430 Depart for Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1440 Arrive and lay wreath

1450 Depart for Percherya Lavra Monastery

1455 Arrive: tour monastery

1525 Depart monastery for October Revolution Square

1530 Walkabout in the Square

1545 Depart for Babi Yar Memorial

1555 Arrive and view Babi Yar

1605 Depart for Cinema

1610 Arrive: demonstration of High Definition TV followed by short (10 minute) interview with Central TV

1640 Depart for British Council Book Exhibition

1645 Tour British Council Book Exhibition and British Fashion Exhibition

1700 Depart for Kiev Hotel

- 1710 Arrive Hotel: hair, change and a snack meal
- 1840 Depart for Kiev Opera House
- 1845 Look in on Pre-Performance Reception at the Opera House
- 1855 Walk to seat escorted by Rank Xerox and British Council Representatives
- 1900 Opera begins (3 hours 40 minutes long: 2 intervals during which drinks will be served)
- 2240 Walk backstage to meet performers
- 2300 Attend Reception given by Rank Xerox and British Council
- 2330 Leave Opera House for State Guest House
- 2350 Arrive Guest House: overnight

SUNDAY 10 JUNE

Breakfast will be available when required

- 0840 Depart Guest House for Airport
- 0910 Arrive Airport: farewells
- 0915 Depart Kiev in Soviet Aircraft for Leninakan (2 hour flight plus one hour time difference)
- 1215 Arrive Leninakan Airport: met by Armenian Prime Minister and other senior local officials
- Depart in motorcade for Lord Byron School
- 1245 Arrive school. Enter through group of young children, who will be singing English and Armenian songs, to school hall
- 1250 Opening Ceremony (short speeches from the Prime Minister and Armenian Prime Minister, followed by Mrs Thatcher unveiling a plaque)
- 1310 Leave hall for tour of school building, ending up in the Gymnasium, where the Prime Minister meets the British workers who helped build the school
- 1330 Leave the school from the Gymnasium and walk across to the "portacabin city" where some of those made homeless in the earthquake now live. Walk about three hundred yards to the waiting motorcade (the Prime Minister may greet some of the people who live here)
- 1345 Depart by car for the Ani redevelopment area, where new houses are being constructed for the homeless, and then to the former KGB HQ for lunch. During the drive the Prime Minister may wish to stop and look at some of the scenes of destruction, and reconstruction, and meet some of the people en route.

1430 Lunch with local dignitaries (to include few words,
and toasts, from the Prime Minister and Armenian
Prime Minister)

1545 Depart for the site of an old church destroyed in the
earthquake

1550 Disembark and walk to the church (walkabout, talk to
the media?)

1605 Depart for the Memorial for those who died in the
Earthquake

1610 Arrive Memorial: lay wreath

1615 Depart for the Airport

1625 Arrive Airport: farewells

1630 Depart in Soviet plane for Kiev
(2 hour flight less 1 hour time difference)

1730 Arrive Kiev Airport: transfer to VC 10

1745 Depart Kiev by air for London
(3 hour 55 minute flight less 3 hour time difference)

1840 Arrive LHR: return to No 10