

Mr Powell

Two short notice, I'm
agreed CBN

**PROPOSAL THAT PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT GORBACHEV SIGN
PRINTS OF PALACE OF WESTMINSTER**

1. I have been approached today by a Mr Marshall of Ruche Ltd concerning his company's proposal that the Prime Minister and President Gorbachev sign prints of the Palace of Westminster, which would then be sold for charity. President Gorbachev's office have, according to Marshall, agreed to this in principle, and there is an outside possibility that the proposal might be mentioned informally today.
2. According to Marshall, the Prime Minister's office had earlier agreed to the Ruche proposal, with the proviso that Gorbachev also agreed. Gorbachev's office apparently consented in principle today following lobbying by the Head of the Soviet Academy of Arts, Mr Boris Ugarov.
3. The 25 prints are of paintings of the Palace of Westminster which were recently discovered in Leningrad and are currently being exhibited in Westminster. The exhibition opening was attended by Zamyatin.
4. I told Marshall that it was most unlikely that we could arrange for a joint signing on this late notice, but I would pass on his information to the Private Office. I am keeping the prints just in case.

N M Griffiths

Nick Griffiths
British Embassy

8 June 1990