

PERSONAL

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FILE

a: /braithwaite. NB

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

cc FCO

*From the Private Secretary*

20 June 1990

You must be fed up with getting letters from me about individual journalists or television presenters: but Jonathan Dimbleby at least is very grateful indeed for your efforts on his behalf!

We have now heard that Bruce Anderson of the Sunday Telegraph is hoping to visit Moscow at the end of July/beginning of August, and has asked if we could put in a good word for him to have an interview with President Gorbachev. I know that the odds must be very slim indeed (and will no doubt be slimmer if the Russians know that one purpose of his visit is to attend the first conference of the Russian Christian Democratic Party). But he is a serious journalist, with a regular weekly column in the Sunday Telegraph which is very widely read. A point which might carry some weight with Gorbachev's staff is that he is a strong supporter of the Prime Minister, and has interviewed her on several occasions.

Could you perhaps feed in his request to Gorbachev's spokesmen and to Chernayev, without embarrassment to yourself? If so, we would be very grateful.

(CHARLES POWELL)

His Excellency Sir Rodric Braithwaite, K.C.M.G.

PERSONAL

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a: / Dimbleby. MS



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

20 June 1990

Thank you for your kind letter of 15 June. I am glad it all worked out. I knew that all was well when I looked across the desk during our meeting with Mr. Gorbachev and saw that Chernayev had drawn up a little list of points for Gorbachev's decision of which no. 5 was "BBC?" It had a tick against it in red ink!

Anyway, it was a great coup to get the first interview and enormous credit to you and Alexandra.

(CHARLES POWELL)

Jonathan Dimbleby, Esq.

SA



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**N E W S &  
C U R R E N T  
A F F A I R S**

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

ON THE RECORD  
LIME GROVE STUDIOS  
LONDON W12 7RJ  
TELEPHONE 01-576 7927  
FAX 01-740 8549

Mr Charles Powell  
10 Downing Street  
Whitehall  
London SW1

15th June 1990

*Dear Charles,*

Thank you very much for all the help you gave us with the BBC interview. In the end - though we were on tenterhooks until the very last moment - it was something of a triumph for us. The interview ran at ten minutes on the main news bulletins and the full version replaced 'Allo Allo' on BBC1 on the same evening!

I had an extremely enthusiastic response about it not only from within but from many viewers as well. The Public were evidently fascinated to see Gorbachev in close-up talking quietly and reasonably about the Soviet predicament.

You may have read in the 'Sunday Times' (which was picked up by the 'Today' and I have issued a writ accordingly!) that I had violated "a condition" of the interview by raising the Yeltsyn factor and that the Russians were furious as a consequence. In truth there were no conditions and the President's men (who had sought to persuade me just before the interview that Yeltsyn was not interesting!) remained on very good terms with us afterwards. I think Gorbachev himself would have gone on talking all afternoon had his aides not been mindful of the fact that he did have other matters to attend to.

As it is I have had the chance to meet a remarkable man who will surely go down as a great man of this century. I am thus - personally - greatly indebted to you.

I hope we have a chance to meet again before very long.

*Jonathan Dimbleby*

Jonathan Dimbleby

# SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

PETERBOROUGH COURT AT SOUTH QUAY 181 MARSH WALL LONDON E14 9SR  
TELEPHONE: 01-538 5000 TELEX: 22874 TELLDN G

DIRECT LINE:

FAX:

(Copy of letter sent on 19 June 1990)

7 July 1990

Charles Powell Esq  
No.10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

*My Dear Charles,*

I will be visiting Moscow at the end of July/beginning of August to attend the first conference of the Russian Christian Democratic Party. I thought that as I am going to be there anyway, I would like to put in a bid to interview Mr Gorbachev.

Perhaps in relaying the request to him, the other purpose of my visit ought to be suppressed but you and the people in Moscow will be the better judges of that. I am sure that any testimonial from you would be worth much more than anything I can say on my own behalf, but it may be worth mentioning that I have interviewed the Prime Minister on several occasions.

*Bruce*  
*Anderson*

Bruce Anderson  
Assistant Editor

*Again: happy birthday*

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PETERBOROUGH COURT AT SOUTH QUAY 181 MARSH WALL LONDON E14 9SR

TELEPHONE: 01-538 5000 TELEX: 22874 TELLDN G

DIRECT LINE:

FAX:

19 June 1990

Charles Powell Esq  
No.10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

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*Ever,*

*Bruce*

Bruce Anderson  
Assistant Editor