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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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JPC

Agree to nominate Robin Leigh-Pemberton? - Yes  
(But not John Harvey - Jones)  
6 July 1990

Sea Chucker,

CD 6/7.

The British-Soviet Lecture

This year it is the United Kingdom's turn to nominate a speaker to give the annual British-Soviet public lecture, a series launched when the Prime Minister visited the Soviet Union in 1987. Our previous nomination, in 1988, was Lord Blake, who gave the second lecture in the series, on the theme of "British Perestroika". The lecture should take place in the autumn, at a prestigious Soviet institution, probably in Moscow.

We have considered possible themes for the lecture. To have maximum impact, it should be a topic of wide concern, in the United Kingdom as well as in the Soviet Union. The two areas where we need most pressing to put our views across are the reform of the Soviet economy and the Soviet Union's part in tackling environmental issues.

The transition of the Soviet Union to a market economy is the issue on which the ultimate success or failure of President Gorbachev depends. The Foreign Secretary therefore recommends that this should be the theme of the lecture. He suggests that he invite Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, to give the lecture, which could focus on the fundamental need for sound money and the role of a properly functioning banking system in a market economy.

As a second choice, we might consider Sir John Harvey-Jones who might be asked to give a presentation on the role of the private sector. In either case, we would be aiming for an audience of top-level economic policy-makers, including potential captains of industry.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve (HMT).

Jans.  
Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

7 July 1990

See Sept.

**THE BRITISH-SOVIET LECTURE**

Thank you for your letter of 6 July about the speaker to give the annual British-Soviet Lecture. The Prime Minister agrees that we should invite the Governor of the Bank of England to give the Lecture, but does not support the choice of Sir John Harvey-Jones as a substitute.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve (H M Treasury).

Yours sincerely,

C. D. POWELL

J. S. Wall, Esq., L.V.O.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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