



From The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Pattie, M.P.

① Ack.
② Soviet Dept.
for appropriate
action/draft reply

House of Commons,
LONDON, SW1A 0AA
Secretary 01-219 4055

The Rt Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign Office
Whitehall
SW1A 2AH

Mr Hollamby
You agreed to
take this on.
Russell Dixon told.
Thanks V. Evan
16/11

✓ PS
PS/M Waldegrave
PS/Lordaleman
Mr Hatfield
Mr Slater
14 November 1988
SEND
Mr Teasdale
PR
Russell Dixon APS
15/11

Dear Geoffrey

I have been informed that a proposal is being developed which will involve a British astronaut flying on a Soviet mission to the Mir space station in the Spring of 1991. You will be pleased to know that, while the promoters would welcome at least the tacit support of Her Majesty's Government, no public money whatsoever is required. The deal will be a straight commercial purchase of a slot from Glavkosmos and the money will be raised by sponsorship in the UK.

The proposal has been developed thus far by Jardine Mathieson. The sponsorship experts are satisfied that they will be able to raise the necessary sums, representing two per cent of the sponsorship market, now that a group of ITV companies have committed themselves to the appropriate amount of television coverage.

The project will include the selection and training of the astronaut and the flight to the Mir space station for a ten day visit and return. The intention is also to have scientific experiments taking advantage of the microgravity on the space station and medical experiments relating to weightlessness in space.

I understand that your officials have been kept informed of these developments but I thought you might welcome having the matter drawn to your attention lest it might be raised by the Soviet side in future discussions.

Because of their shared interest in space activity, I am sending copies of this letter to George Younger and David Young.

Yours ever

John

