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cc/PL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 November 1988

CAN
23/11

Dear Neil

/ The Foreign Secretary has received a letter from Sir Geoffrey Pattie MP about a proposal for a privately funded British astronaut to fly on a Soviet mission to the MIR Space Station in the spring of 1991. Sir Geoffrey Pattie has copied this letter to Lord Young and to Mr Younger but I enclose a copy for your ease of reference.

/ We assume that your department will be coordinating the government's view of this proposal. Meanwhile, the Foreign Secretary proposes to send a non-committal reply to Sir Geoffrey Pattie along the lines of the enclosed draft. I should be grateful for your early views on this text.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell at No 10 who will wish to be aware of this proposal, and also to Brian Hawtin in the Ministry of Defence.

Yours ever

R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

Neil Thornton Esq

PS/Department of Trade & Industry

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DSI 1 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:
Secretary of State

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

TO:

Copies to:

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Pattie MP
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A 0AA

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 14 November about
the proposal that a British astronaut should
fly on a Soviet mission to the MIR Space Station,
funded by private sponsorship in the UK.

As you know, the government is keen to find private
sector funding for Space. I was interested to
know about this imaginative proposal. It was
good of you to write.

Enclosures flag(s)