



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

FUSD 7/303/5 (36)

13 April 1983

Prime Minister

To note.

A.D.C. 14/4.

Jew John,

Expulsion of Soviet Intelligence Officers

In my letter of 24 March, which you acknowledged on 25 March, I set out the line which we subsequently took with the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires on 31 March when informing him of the expulsion of three Soviet intelligence officers. As indicated in paragraph 4 of my letter, Sir J Bullard made it clear to the Soviet Chargé that if the Russians retaliated, we would respond.

On 8 April the British Ambassador was informed by the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the expulsion of our Assistant Air Attaché and the Financial Times correspondent in Moscow, both of them allegedly for unacceptable activities. Mr Pym considers that we must now take appropriate action against the Soviet Embassy here. He has, therefore, decided that we should expel A A Chernyayev, Third Secretary and Labour Attaché who is considered to be a member of the KGB.

When informing the Soviet Ambassador of Chernyayev's expulsion, we would make clear that it was in response to the wholly unjustified Soviet action in Moscow. Mr Pym's reasons for not using the normal formula for expulsion (activities incompatible with their official status) is that he does not believe we could credibly maintain in public the artificial position that evidence of espionage activities had come to light between 31 March and now. We would therefore not be reducing the appropriate ceiling on this occasion, since the person concerned would be expelled as retaliation, and not for inadmissible activities. We should however be making it clear that we are prepared, as we said, to match Soviet actions in Moscow.

/We would

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We would hope that this response would cause the Russians to draw a line under this present exercise. Nevertheless, when speaking to the Soviet Ambassador we would once again state that there would be a further British move in London if the Russians again retaliated against British personnel or interests in Moscow.

Our Assistant Air Attaché will be leaving Moscow on 14 April. We shall be aiming to take action with the Soviet Ambassador on the following day.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), Tony Rawsthorne (Home Office) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,
R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 April 1983

Expulsion of Soviet Intelligence Officers

Thank you for your letter of 13 April. The Prime Minister has noted, and agrees with, the decision of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to expel a further member of the Soviet Embassy.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), Tony Rawsthorne (Home Office) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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