

(1)

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Agree Kornienko's visit
should be rearranged
for third week of December?

8 November, 1983

John Tolan,

DMS
9/11

Anglo/Soviet Relations

Yes mt

In your letter of 11 July, you said the Prime Minister agreed that there would be advantage in arranging for the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Kornienko to pay a return visit to Britain in mid-September for talks with Mr Rifkind.

As you know, the talks fixed for 15/16 September were postponed following the Soviet shooting down of the KAL airliner. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary now intends, if the Prime Minister agrees, to try to re-arrange these talks for the third week in December. This would indicate to the Russians that we were interested in giving some substance to references in the Prime Minister's and Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's recent public statements about the desirability of increasing our contacts with the Russians and putting our views directly to them. Talks in December would give us a further opportunity of stressing both the firmness of our position on INF deployment, as well as the West's genuine interest in continuing the negotiations in 1984. A visit by Kornienko might also prepare the way for further bilateral meetings in 1984, if the circumstances are right.

Yes

John Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

Sov. union

UK / Soviet
Relations
15.2



CONFIDENTIAL



Sub

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 November 1983

ANGLO/SOVIET RELATIONS

Thank you for your letter of 8 November.

The Prime Minister agrees that the visit of the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Kornienko should be re-arranged for the third week of December.

A. J. COLES

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

CONFIDENTIAL