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Prime Minister.

Content that the Foreign Secretary should meet Gromyko in Moscow or London during 1984?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 January 1984

John Selous

A.F.C. 10/1

Would prefer London

The paper on East West relations circulated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on 14 November included the suggestion that Gromyko should be invited to visit the UK during 1984.

OD has not yet discussed this paper, and I gather it may not do so until 26 January at the earliest. Meanwhile Sir Geoffrey is to meet Gromyko in Stockholm on 19 January during the opening session of the Conference on Disarmament in Europe (CDE). The question of future Anglo/Soviet contacts seems certain to come up then. The line which Sir Geoffrey would propose to take is that brief meetings such as this one and the previous encounter in Madrid do not allow time to get very far into the substance; that there is currently material for a really substantial discussion between the Foreign Ministers of Britain and the USSR; that he would like to see this take place; and that he would be ready either to visit Moscow, where he was briefly with the Prime Minister on their way to Tokyo in June 1979, or to welcome Gromyko to London if this is what he would prefer.

Sir Geoffrey would propose to inform Mr Shultz of his intentions when they meet here on 15 January, and subsequently, to inform his French and German colleagues.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

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FOREIGN Pouch: East/West

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FORN AND COMMERCE

LONDON, ENGLAND





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From the Private Secretary

11 January 1984

Invitation to the Soviet Foreign Minister

Thank you for your letter of 9 January.

The Prime Minister is content that when the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary meets Mr. Gromyko in Stockholm on 19 January, he should invite him to visit London in 1984. Mrs. Thatcher would very much prefer the meeting to be in London rather than Moscow.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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