



10 DOWNING STREET

17 April 1985

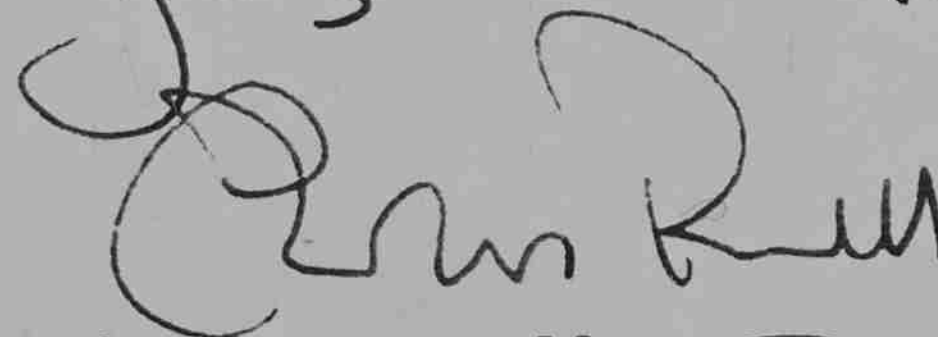
*From the Private Secretary**Dear Len,*Proposed Expulsion of Soviet Intelligence Officers

The Prime Minister has discussed with the Foreign Secretary his minute PM/85/33 of today's date recommending the expulsion of a number of Soviet intelligence officers.

The Prime Minister is content with the action proposed in paragraph 3 of that minute, save that she thinks those mentioned in 3(b) should be withdrawn within one calendar month rather than six weeks.

The Prime Minister also thinks that action should be taken with the Soviet Ambassador as early as possible tomorrow, 18 April. The No.10 Press Office has already received an inquiry from the Daily Express as to whether expulsions are imminent. Speculation is likely to grow: and if there are stories in the press tomorrow the matter could be raised at Prime Minister's Questions.

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

Yours sincerely,

Charles Powell

Len Appleyard Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.