

PRIME MINISTER

SEMINAR ON THE SOVIET UNION

You said that you would like to carry out a fundamental re-assessment of the Soviet Union under Gorbachev before your visit to Moscow, and would want to hold a seminar as part of this.

I assume that:

- |   | <u>Yes</u>                          | <u>No</u>                |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| - you would like the seminar to be at Chequers?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - to be at a weekend? <i>on Friday</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - to take the usual form of a morning session with academics, leaving the afternoon for Ministers and officials to draw the policy conclusions? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - to comprise a maximum of 20 participants, divided 10/10?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - to have a paper prepared as a basis for discussion?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

I have spoken to Caroline and identified two possible Saturdays early next year: 28 February and 14 March. The former would leave more time before the likely date of your visit.

Agree to 28 February?

                    

*CDP*

C D POWELL

25 November 1986

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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 November 1986

Dear Tony,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

The Prime Minister wants us to carry out a fundamental assessment of the nature of the Soviet system under Mr. Gorbachev and the way which it is likely to develop, before her visit to Moscow next year. As part of this, she wishes to hold a seminar bringing in a number of academic experts on the Soviet Union. My provisional plan is to find a whole day for such a seminar, probably at Chequers, with academics taking part in the morning session leaving Ministers and officials to consider the policy implications in the afternoon.

I am not yet in a position to suggest a date, although I think it is likely to be between mid-February and mid-March. You will wish to start consideration, however, of the papers which will be required for such a seminar and who should prepare them. It would also be helpful to have by mid-December names of suggested participants from the academic, and possibly the business community. If you were able to let me have say 15 or 16 names, the Prime Minister could choose 10. I enclose lists of those who attended a discussion session before Mr. Gorbachev visited London in December 1984 together with a list of participants in the last major seminar on East/West relations.

I shall let you have more details when I have had a chance to discuss the proposal further with the Prime Minister. But this gives you something to start on.

I am copying this letter to John Howe (Ministry of Defence) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,  
Charles Powell

CHARLES POWELL

A.C. Galsworthy, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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DA



LIST OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED DISCUSSION SESSION - DECEMBER 1984

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Archie Brown       | - internal workings of the<br>Kremlin, structure of power |
| Malcolm Mackintosh | - historical; general Soviet<br>strategy                  |
| Michael Kaser      | - Soviet economy and five-year<br>plan                    |
| Alec Nove          | - Soviet agriculture                                      |
| Lawrence Freeman   | - defence   |
| Norman Wooding     | - trade   |

SEMINAR ON EAST/WEST RELATIONS

MEETING WITH ACADEMIC EXPERTS

The Prime Minister

Mr. Michael Kaser

Mr. A.H. Brown

Professor A. Nove

The Reverend Michael Bourdeaux

Dr. Alex Pravda

Mr. C.N. Donnelly

Mr. G. Schopflin

Dr. Ronald Amman

Lord Thomas of Swynnerton

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP

Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, MP

Sir Antony Acland

Sir Julian Bullard

Mr. J.M. Mackintosh

Sir Anthony Parsons

Mr. Robin Butler

Mr. John Coles

SEMINAR ON EAST/WEST RELATIONS

MEETING OF MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS

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Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, MP

Sir Antony Acland

Sir Julian Bullard

Mr. Bryan Cartledge

Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP

Sir Clive Whitmore

Field Marshal Sir Edwim Bramall

Mr. John Blelloch

Sir Robert Armstrong

Mr. David Goodall

Mr. J.M. Mackintosh

Sir Anthony Parsons

Mr. Robin Butler

Mr. John Coles





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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

26 November 1986

FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 1987

BF // The Prime Minister intends to have  
an all-day seminar at Chequers on Friday  
27 February to discuss the Soviet Union.  
I do not know when the seminar will  
start or how many people would be invited,  
but I thought I would give you as much  
warning as possible.

CAROLINE RYDER

Chief Petty Officer Dorothy Haynes, B.E.M.