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Mr. POWELL - for information



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Stephen Sherbourne Esq
Political Secretary
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Am 10/7.

Dear Stephen,

I have received the attached letter from a former colleague of mine who organises the Capital Music Festival on behalf of Capital Radio in London.

He has just returned from a visit to Moscow and meetings with the Ministry of Culture and Gosconcert (the Soviet Union's music agency). He and a colleague were viewing pop music bands in order to arrange a concert in London in July. They have now signed a "Heads of Agreement" with Gosconcert to present two bands "Dialogue" and "Ariya". The concert will be broadcast on Capital Radio in London and relayed live to the Soviet Union with an audience of over 70 million people. Linked with this broadcast will be feature material depicting the musical life of young people in London compared to their counterparts in Russia and I gather they propose to have a live telephone link up between young Russians and young Londoners to exchange views.

It will come as no surprise to hear that Mrs Thatcher's visit is causing some interest and the opening up of relations with the West is being seen as a tremendous boost to the youth culture in the USSR.

Obviously matters of much greater import will be on the agenda in Moscow but you might think it worthwhile to feed this information into the system. It has an interesting youth appeal which might grab the attention of the popular newspapers during the trip, if the opportunity presented itself.

Yours

Howell

HOWELL JAMES
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