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Temporarily retained 10 DOWNING STREET *Wayland, 23/1/77*
 LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

12 November 1988

VISIT OF PRESIDENT GORBACHEV

The Soviet Ambassador called on the Prime Minister late this afternoon to deliver a message from President Gorbachev to the effect that he would like to take up the Prime Minister's invitation to pay an official visit to the United Kingdom. Dates which would suit him would be 12-14 December. He would be travelling to New York on 7/8 December to address the United Nations and meet there with President Reagan and Vice-President Bush. He would then visit Cuba from 9-11 December inclusive. He would leave Cuba early on 12 December, and could arrive in London late that evening (2300 hours). He would like to stay all of 13 December and a part of 14 December in London, before returning to Moscow that afternoon. He hoped very much that these dates would be convenient for the Prime Minister. He regretted the short notice.

The Prime Minister, who was aware of what the Ambassador would propose following an earlier meeting between myself and Mr. Kossov, said that President Gorbachev would be very welcome on these dates. She hoped that he would be able to remain at least until after lunch on 14 December to give sufficient time for a full programme.

The Prime Minister asked whether the Ambassador had any views on the sort of programme which President and Mrs. Gorbachev would like. Would he, for example, wish to deliver a major speech while he was here? The Ambassador said that his instructions were that President Gorbachev wanted to devote much the greater part of the time to talks with the Prime Minister. He had enjoyed his visit to Chequers last time. If the Prime Minister were to suggest that part of the talks were to be held there, he was sure that would be very well received by President Gorbachev. He understood that Gorbachev would not wish to make a major speech in Britain, since he would already be speaking at the United Nations and

in Cuba. Nor would he wish to give a press conference. His main interest was in talks. He would, however, check again about the Guildhall. The Prime Minister said there would be no difficulty about holding a part of the talks at Chequers. She would expect to give a dinner for President Gorbachev at No.10.

The Ambassador said that his instructions also required him to establish what subjects the Prime Minister would like to cover in the talks. The Prime Minister said that these should, as usual, be very wide-ranging under the broad heading of the Way Ahead. She would want to cover East/West relations, arms control including chemical weapons, Sino-Soviet relations, trade issues, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Cambodia and Southern Africa. The Ambassador said that he thought this would match Gorbachev's intentions. When he had last seen the President in Moscow, Europe and arms control had been the two subjects uppermost in his mind. Gorbachev had commented that he trusted the Prime Minister as a negotiating partner because he knew he could always be sure that she would fulfil her promises.

The Ambassador continued that his instructions were to propose that the visit to the United Kingdom by the Supreme Soviet Delegation and the planned visit by Mr. Waldegrave to Moscow in December should both be postponed until early next year. The Prime Minister observed that this seemed sensible.

The Ambassador said that the Soviet authorities hoped that nothing would be said about the visit until it was announced on 15 November in Moscow, although he realised that there might well be leaks in the United States. He understood that the Prime Minister might wish to mention it in her speech at the Guildhall on the evening of 14 November and was confident there would be no objection to this on the Soviet side.

In subsequent conversation with me, the Ambassador said that Gorbachev would have a very large delegation, including Shevardnadze and Yakovlev. It might be necessary to ask our help with finding an RAF airfield to accommodate some of the aircraft. He would also be grateful for an early meeting with those who would handle security for the visit.

The Prime Minister would wish news of the visit to be kept as close as possible until she has announced it in her Guildhall speech on Monday evening. She would welcome some early suggestions for the programme, preferably before her departure for Washington on 15 November.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Heseltine (whom I have already informed).

(C.D. POWELL)

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 November 1988

MR. GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

I wrote over the weekend about the Prime Minister's meeting with the Soviet Ambassador to discuss Mr. Gorbachev's visit. I neglected to enclose the text of the Ambassador's speaking-note, which you will find with this letter.

(C.D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET

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Under the instructions of Mr. M.Gorbachev I would like to convey the following message.

Mr. M.Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, would like to use the invitation of the Prime-Minister of Great Britain and pay an official visit to London on 12-14 December.

The visit is planned within the framework of a broad foreign trip by Mr. M.Gorbachev. It will include a visit to New-York (7-8 December) where Mr. Gorbachev will address the United Nations, as well as meet the US leadership, followed by a visit to Havana (9-12 December) on the invitation of the Cuban leaders.

In case of agreement Mr. and Mrs. Gorbachev and the accompanying persons could arrive in London at around 11 p.m. on 12 December. The following day could be devoted to talks with Mrs. Thatcher and meetings with other British representatives. The return to Moscow is planned for the first part of the day 14 December.

Mrs. Thatcher's wishes in regards of the contents of the talks would be appreciated in Moscow.

Taking into account the forthcoming Soviet-British Summit, it would, probably, be practicable to postpone the visit of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation to London and the trip of Mr. W.Waldgrave, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, to Moscow until the beginning of next year.

In addition to this message I would like to express a request that the British side refrained from announcing the visit until such an announcement is made in Moscow (14-15 December).

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10 DOWNING STREET

Soviet Ambassador,
speaking with: please
file.
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L.F.

Генеральный секретарь ЦК КПСС, Председатель Президиума Верховного Совета СССР хотел бы воспользоваться имеющимся приглашением премьер-министра Великобритании и посетить Лондон с официальным визитом с 12 по 14 декабря с.г. Этот визит планируется осуществить в рамках широкой зарубежной поездки М.С.Горбачева, включающей в себя Нью-Йорк (7-8 декабря), где состоится его выступление в ООН, а также встреча с руководством США, и Гавану (9-12 декабря) по приглашению кубинского руководства.

В случае согласия М.С.Горбачев с супругой и сопровождающими лицами могли бы прибыть в Лондон ориентировочно в 23.00 12 декабря. Следующий день можно было бы отвести для переговоров с М.Тэтчер и встреч с другими английскими представителями. Возвращение в Москву намечается на первую половину дня 14 декабря.

Пожелания М.Тэтчер по содержанию переговоров были бы с признательностью приняты в Москве.

С учетом предстоящей советско-британской встречи на высшем уровне было бы, очевидно, целесообразным перенести визит делегации Верховного Совета СССР в Лондон и поездку государственного министра иностранных дел Великобритании У.Уолдргейва в Москву на начало следующего года.

М.С.Горбачев имеет в виду объявить о своих предстоящих зарубежных поездках, в том числе в Великобританию 14-15 ноября. В этой связи в беседе с М.Тэтчер выскажите пожелание, чтобы до этого английская сторона воздержалась от объявления о нашем визите.

LZ