



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 November 1988

Dea Charles,

President Gorbachev's Visit

After the Soviet Ambassador called on you this morning two members of the Embassy called on Simon Hemans in our Soviet Department to give him the details of what Russians hope will be in Mr Gorbachev's programme. In order that we all have the same understanding of what this is, I am enclosing a copy of the programme as they received it from Moscow, together with annotations by Simon Hemans reflecting what you told him and what Messrs Karasin and Kossov said to him later in the morning.

I understand that you will be dealing directly with the Palace about the Russian wish to bring everything forward even further than had already been agreed.

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OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

Temporarily retained
@Wayland, 23/3/17

The Soviet Chief of Protocol arrives over the weekend for a reconnaissance visit starting with a meeting with our Protocol Department on Monday afternoon. It would be a great help if The Queen's reaction to this latest Soviet proposal could be known in time for the details of the Wednesday programme to be slotted into place.

One or two minor questions need to be resolved:

- (a) There is an assumption in the programme as it stands that the Prime Minister will wish to ride with Mr Gorbachev in his car from Heathrow to 13 Kensington Palace Gardens. Is this in fact the case? If so, would Mr Thatcher ride with Mrs Gorbachev or would the Prime Minister, wish Mr Baker to travel with her? The Russians are likely to bring three or four of their own cars for their top VIPs. That would imply the Prime Minister riding in a Soviet Zil.



- (b) As shown on the programme, the Russians are assuming that the Gorbachevs will invite the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher, if he is there, for a short private talk at 13 Kensington Palace Gardens over tea or coffee. They are anxious to know whether this would in principle be acceptable to the Prime Minister despite the late hour.
- (c) The Russians appear to be flexible over the proposed working lunch on the Tuesday as to whether this should be restricted to those who have been at the talks plus Mrs Gorbachev, or perhaps widened to include on the Soviet side the Gorbachevs, Mr Yakovlev, Mr Shevardnadze and the Soviet Ambassador, and on the British side the Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr Yakovlev's host (perhaps the Lord President), Sir Rodric Braithwaite and Mr Baker.
- (d) Are we correct in understanding that the Prime Minister will indeed wish to escort the Gorbachevs on their sight-seeing tour?
- (e) Will the Prime Minister wish to attend the Lord Mayor's reception at the Mansion House?
- (f) The programme as discussed by Mr Zamyatin has Mr Gorbachev arriving from the Mansion House at 1930 for his 1930 dinner. I assume that the meal would in fact start at 1945 and everything would end approximately two hours later. Is that correct?
- (g) Will the Prime Minister wish the talks on the morning of 14 December to be restricted as for the day before?
- (h) On the assumption that the Buckingham Palace arrangements stand roughly as requested by the Russians, will the Prime Minister wish to travel from the Palace to Heathrow with Mr Gorbachev in his car?

I am copying this letter to Brian Hawtin (MOD),
Tom Jeffery (DES) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Jans,
Stephe Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

SOVIET SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PROGRAMME FOR PRESIDENT AND MRS GORBACHEV ON THEIR VISIT TO
BRITAIN, 12-14 DECEMBER 1988

SUGGESTIONS AS RECEIVED FROM MOSCOW
BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN LONDON

Monday 12 December

2300 Arrive Heathrow
2320 approx Leave Heathrow
2350 approx Arrive 13 Kensington Palace
Gardens

Tuesday 13 December

1000 Talks at No 10 Downing Street
on a restricted basis of
principals, note-takers and
interpreters
1030-1230 Mrs Gorbachev to visit Windsor
Castle and possibly Kew Gardens
either on the way or way back
1300-1400 Working lunch at No 10. It being
left open whether this is still
on a restricted basis or with
the addition of other top members
of the Soviet team. However,
Mrs Gorbachev has indicated
that she does wish to be
included.

COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS DERIVING FROM
DISCUSSION WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY

It remains to be decided whether of the Soviet
delegation only the Gorbachevs go to 13 KPG
or whether, and if so who, other VIP members
go there as well or go straight to their hotel,
the Royal Garden.
The Soviet Embassy expect Mr Gorbachev to invite
the Prime Minister (and Mr Thatcher if he is
there) to join them for 15 minutes or so of
informal conversation over tea/coffee.

1400-1630	Sight-seeing tour of London as follows: (a) Wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior (b) Parliament Square (c) Whitehall (d) The Embankment (e) City of London (f) Docklands (g) St Paul's Cathedral including a visit inside (h) Fleet Street	The Russians have left it open whether all the top VIPs might go on this tour. They appreciate that the Prime Minister may prefer, if she is expecting to accompany them herself, to keep the group small and make it more personal. As such it might be easier to keep the lunch on a restricted basis so that the lunch party is the same as the tour party.
1700	The Leader of the Opposition to call on Mr Gorbachev at 13 KPG	The Russians have said that they only wish to receive Mr Kinnock and that they expect his call to last 30-35 minutes.
1800	Reception by the Lord Mayor of London at the Mansion House	The Russians have asked that this be kept to a maximum of 100-150 with arrangements being made to allow Mr Gorbachev to have real conversations with limited numbers of selected captains of industry. They have also asked whether they might be allowed to suggest some names for the guest list themselves. Protocol Department are in touch with the Lord Mayor's office.
1700-1800	Mrs Gorbachev visits the Museum of London	It is not definite that Mrs Gorbachev will not go to the City reception but the Soviet Embassy assume that she will wish to go back to 13 KPG from the Museum in order to have time to change before dinner.
1915	Leave the Mansion House for No 10	
1930	Arrive No 10	
1945	Sit down to dinner	

2145 approx Leave Downing Street for
Kensington Palace Gardens

Wednesday 14 December

1000-1030	British Communist Party leaders call on Mr Gorbachev at 13 KPG	Mr Powell has already asked the Russians to bring forward the Communist Party to 0930 to allow for an hour of talks with the Prime Minister from 1015-1115.
1045-1115	Final session of talks with the Prime Minister at No 10 - restricted session	Mr Powell has spoken to Sir W Heseltine about the Palace arrangements. He will talk to The Queen on Sunday so that there may be a provisional response to the Soviet proposal on Monday.
1130	Audience of The Queen and tour of the royal art collection	The Russians have left out of account the Guard of Honour ceremony which would take place before lunch at Buckingham Palace. It would take approximately 10 minutes.
1200	Sit down to lunch at Buckingham Palace	
1300	Leave Buckingham Palace	
1330	Take-off from Heathrow	