

PRIME MINISTER

As I mentioned to you earlier, Mr Gorbachev has now proposed the dates Wednesday 5 - Friday 7 April for his visit to the United Kingdom. I attach the relevant page of your diary. The dates are not ideal. You only return from Africa on the evening of Sunday, 2 April, after a week's absence. You are due to dine at Windsor on the evening of 5 April. 6 April would normally be Cabinet and Questions. And you have a regional tour pencilled in for 7 April.

However, none of these are over-riding obstacles to agreeing to Mr Gorbachev's proposal. The main difficulty for you will be in finding adequate time to prepare for the talks. We may have to work on that over the Easter weekend and on some of the longer flights in Africa.

I have done a quick check with the Palace. Bill Heseltine thinks that the dates are likely to suit The Queen quite well. She will be at Windsor that week and has no particular engagements.

Agree the dates, subject to The Queen also being content?

CJP

Yes

M

M

CHARLES POWELL
18 January 1989

1300 Lunch and Questions briefing
 1515 QUESTIONS
 1545 KEEP FREE FOR MPs
 1830 AUDIENCE

Wednesday 22 March

1230 for PRESENT GOLD STAR AWARDS +TP THE SAVOY
 1300 to 1500
 1700 Foreign Secretary +CDP
 1730 Chancellor of Exchequer + PG
 1800-1900 Drinks with MPs No 10

Thursday 23 March

HOUSE RISES?

Monday 27 March - Sunday 2 April
 KEEP FREE - OVERSEAS?

Monday 3 April HOUSE RETURNS?

Wednesday 5 April

? LUNCH WITH NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY
 ? DEPART NO.10
 KEEP FREE
 ? RETURN TO NO.10

Thursday 6 April

1515 QUESTIONS
 1545 DEPART LONDON?

Friday 7 April

REGIONAL TOUR

Saturday 8 April

1000-1200 MISS MENDOZA

Monday 10 April

? FINCHLEY WESTMINSTER FORUM DINNER H/C

Wednesday 12 April

1300 Lunch for Industrialists +DT

Friday 14 April

? Possible lunch for Nobel Prize Winners ? No. 10

Sunday 16 April

KEEP FREE FOR SPEECHWRITING

Monday 17 April

Keep free

Tuesday 18 April

KEEP FREE ?

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 January 1989

Dear Gorbachev,

MR. GORBACHEV'S VISIT

You reported yesterday that Mr. Shevardnadze had proposed to the Foreign Secretary that Mr. Gorbachev's visit to the United Kingdom should be reinstated for 5-7 April. I have discussed these dates with the Prime Minister. They are not ideal: the Prime Minister only returns from Africa on the evening of Sunday 2 April. Nonetheless, the Prime Minister has decided that we should accept their proposal. I have consulted The Queen's Private Secretary and understand that they are also acceptable to The Queen.

The way is now open, therefore, to inform the Russians that we can accept the dates. You may wish to do this through H.M. Ambassador in Moscow, informing the Soviet Ambassador here in parallel. It would clearly be helpful to know as soon as possible more precise details of when Mr. and Mrs. Gorbachev will arrive and depart.

We will also need to consider the question of an announcement. The Soviet Ambassador tells me that their normal practice is to make the formal announcement only about a month before a visit. I have said that I do not believe the news of the visit could be held for anything like as long as that, and that it is bound to become public knowledge once we start discussions on the programme, if not before. It seems to me, therefore, that we would be best served by a short announcement towards the end of the month simply to the effect that it has been agreed that Mr. Gorbachev will visit the UK in early April, leaving precise dates and more details for a formal announcement later. You will want to instruct H.M. Ambassador in Moscow to discuss this point too.

The fact that the visit will come so soon after the Prime Minister's visit to Africa means that the briefing for the visit will have to be available well before Easter so that the Prime Minister can work on it before her departure for Africa. The same applies to her speech at the formal dinner in Mr. Gorbachev's honour.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Heseltine at the Palace.

yes March
C.D. Powell
C.D. POWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

MRS. GAISMAN

MR. BEARPARK

me pm
(30)

Mr. Gorbachev will be visiting the UK from 5-7 April. We shall not be announcing it for the time being. The Prime Minister wishes to bring forward Cabinet to Tuesday 4 April. It is unlikely that she will be able to answer questions on Thursday 6 April.

C. D. POWELL

19 January 1989