

PRIME MINISTER

MR GORBACHEV'S VISIT

The Soviet Ambassador called on me this evening to hand over what he described as the definitive programme for Mr Gorbachev's visit. It is in fact exactly as set out in the attached telegram from Moscow which has meantime arrived. In general it follows the outline of the programme agreed last December. The main addition is a speech in the Guildhall on the Friday morning.

Other points made by the Soviet Ambassador were as follows:

The programme had been approved by Mr and Mrs Gorbachev. But if you had any further comments they would of course be considered. We should assume that suggestions we had made which did not appear in the programme had been turned down by Mr and Mrs Gorbachev. This applied to the proposal that you and Mr Gorbachev should receive the BBC Today Programme Award.

While Mrs Gorbachev was very grateful for your suggestions about galleries she might visit, she had in fact seen the National Gallery, the Tate Gallery and the Hayward Gallery during her 1984 visit and would not wish to go again. She did not think there would be time to go to Kew Gardens.

Mrs Gorbachev would not wish to visit a school. But during her sight-seeing tour on the morning of Thursday, 6 April she would be happy to stop two or three times for walkabouts. She would be content to meet children during these, or at St Paul's Cathedral, or the Museum of London.

The decision to give the speech in the Guildhall was a great triumph for us. Mr Gorbachev would make the major

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speech on Europe which had been planned for his visit to
Strasbourg later in the summer. He had decided to give
it here because his European policy had been conceived
during his talks with you in 1984.

I said that I would pass the programme to you. I thought you
would be generally content with it, although perhaps slightly
disappointed that Mrs Gorbachev had not taken up some of the
imaginative suggestions which had been devised. I added that
I thought you would probably speak very briefly after
Mr Gorbachev's speech in the Guildhall, as you had done in the
case of President Reagan. The Ambassador said that he was
sure this would be most welcome.

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

3 March 1989

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3 March 1989

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Dear Charles,

MR GORBACHEV'S VISIT

We spoke about the possible speech at the Guildhall.

Protocol Department have spoken to the Remembrancer whose initial reaction was that it was all rather difficult. He thought that there was a function on the night of the 6th which might make it altogether too difficult to put it into shape for a major speech by 11.00 am, particularly if the place then had to be completely inspected for obvious security reasons. He would think about it over the weekend.

It would clearly assist his thinking if you were to have a word with him and stress that the Prime Minister wishes the necessary heaven and earth moving to be done. The Remembrancer is Mr Adrian Barnes, Tel No 260 1200.

S N P Hemans

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Soviet Department