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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 March 1989

Rine Shmirin

Agree to this?

CD 293

Dear Charles,

Yes

A number of joint documents are likely to be signed during Mr Gorbachev's visit next month.

- (i) Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement;
- (ii) An Understanding on improving visa-issuing procedures;
- (iii) MOU on British School for Armenia;
- (iv) Declaration of Intent on Exchange of Cultural Centres;
- (v) Post-Chernobyl Nuclear Safety Agreement on exchange of information (initial only).

Yes

The Foreign Secretary believes that he and Mr Shevardnadze should sign all these documents at a single ceremony in the presence of the Prime Minister and Mr Gorbachev. Do you think this could take place at Number 10 after the restricted morning session of talks between the Prime Minister and Mr Gorbachev on 6 April? It need take no longer than 15-20 minutes altogether. Mrs Gorbachev, who will be coming to lunch, could attend if she wished. Mr Baker has suggested that a small number of prominent British businessmen who are contributing to the British School in Armenia might also be invited. The Foreign Secretary believes this would be a good idea.

The signing ceremony would need to be held in a room large enough both to enable a good selection of the world's media to be present to record the event, and to contain a small presentation about the proposed British School in Armenia. The Foreign Secretary sees no need for long speeches of any kind but he and Mr Shevardnadze could say a few words about the agreements as a sign of the practical progress in Anglo-Soviet relations, and highlight the Armenia project as a symbol of the links between us. The selection of which journalists should attend would be made on the basis of the usual pooling arrangements.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Tom Jeffery (Department of Education and Science).

Yours
J S Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



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LONDON SW1A 2AA

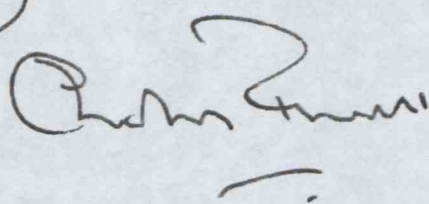
21 March 1989

*From the Private Secretary**Dear Stephen,***MR. GORBACHEV'S VISIT**

Thank you for your letter of 20 March giving details of the joint document to be signed during Mr. Gorbachev's visit next month. The Prime Minister agrees that it would be appropriate for the Foreign Secretary and Mr. Shevardnadze to sign this document at a single ceremony in the presence of the Prime Minister and Mr. Gorbachev. I suggest that we do this at 1230 punctually in the Pillared Room at No. 10. It would be helpful to have everyone except the Prime Minister and Mr. and Mrs. Gorbachev in place by 1225. I agree that it would be a good idea to have a number of prominent businessmen, who are contributing to the British school in Armenia, present.

The ceremony would need to end by 1250 if we are to get through the working lunch and away to Westminster Abbey on time.

I am copying this letter to Tom Jeffery (Department of Education and Science).

Yours sincerely,


C. D. POWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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