

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AACONFIDENTIAL

30 March 1989

Dear Charles

Referring to my previous letter to you of the 3 March *at flap* and my letter to the Prime Minister of the 17 March, to whom I am most grateful for her delightful letter of thanks, I regret I am abroad on holiday and at long distance from the action - reference President Gorbachev's visit. However, it is of great concern to me and could probably be of help in the negotiations next week if note is taken of two visits being planned to the Soviet Union by the British aerospace industry. Neither is receiving information as to the contacts they have requested despite invitations from the Soviets to visit in one instance, and knowledge in the second that their visit would be welcome. *at flap*

The first concerns the SBAC responding to a proposal from the Soviets made at the Farnborough Air Show 1988, due to depart for Moscow on the 17 March for about five days. Repeated requests, in which I have been involved, have still not produced a response from Moscow despite strenuous efforts by the Soviet Embassy in London as well.

The second concerns British Aerospace plc civil aircraft interests where the Moscow Narodny Bank in London had said they would arrange contacts with Aeroflot - nothing has transpired and I have tackled the Soviet Embassy in London and also our worthy Ambassador in Moscow to try and speed things up. The visit is due to take place in the week commencing the 10 April.

These are levers which can be used and I know the parties involved would be grateful if you could arrange for them to be pushed next week. It looks as if Soviet institutions are falling back into their old bureaucratic style - something which I do not think would please our visitor to be told, but he needs to know.

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Further information may follow, but the expected industrial shopping list has not arrived in detail, although I can tell you it is high in food and consumer goods production content, ie. technical support, turn-key systems and you could project 'consultancy' although they do not understand its value clearly.

Should you wish to contact me please do so via my secretary. The office number is 0580 211590 and her home number is 089 272 3840.

Yours sincerely

Pamela Ball

Dictated by Mr Warren
and signed in his absence

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SOVIET UNION: visits of
Gorbachev

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