



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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5 February 1990

Dear Charles,

Call on the Prime Minister by Mr Medvedev

Mr Medvedev will be calling on the Prime Minister at 1630 on Wednesday 7 February. He will be heading the delegation from the Supreme Soviet of the USSR visiting the UK from 7 to 13 February. Vadim Medvedev is a member of the Politburo, Party Secretary for Ideology and a close ally of Gorbachev's.

I enclose a copy of the programme for the visit and a personality note on Medvedev. The delegation have a full programme of parliamentary business, as well as calls on the Prime Minister and the Lord President, lunch with the Foreign Secretary and three days in Wales. Mr Medvedev will also be speaking at Chatham House on 8 February.

The call will provide an opportunity to hear his assessment of the internal situation in the Soviet Union - in particular the immediate problems in the Baltic States (where Medvedev has been playing a crucial role) and in the Transcaucasus; and also the longer term prospects for the Party and the structure of the Soviet Union.

Medvedev will come direct from the 5-6 February Party Plenum, where significant announcements are being made as I write. I will send an update tomorrow.

The Prime Minister will also be able to review bilateral relations, including her own visit to the Soviet Union in June, and that of the Foreign Secretary in April.

It will be worth drawing out Medvedev on the Soviet leadership's present view of the key European issues: Germany, the future of the CSCE process, and "European Architecture" more widely.

The Prime Minister may like to draw on the following points.

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- Much sympathy in Britain over nationalities issues. We have impression that Lithuanians set on independence come what may. Your views? Britain not taking position except that we do not want perestroika damaged or force used. How will your general policy towards relations between centre and periphery evolve?
- Understand use of troops in Transcaucasus to prevent inter-ethnic violence and bloodshed. But now need to establish dialogue - difficult though this inevitably will be.
- Economic prospects? Western (and Soviet) economists almost universally gloomy. At present USSR suffering from worst of both worlds: central planning no longer effective, but market mechanisms still embryonic. Political risks in giving market/enterprises freer rein. But supply situation deteriorating. Drastic measures needed?

Bilateral Relations

- Much looking forward to own visit in June. Going to British Month in Kiev and to open British school in Armenia. Part of increasingly substantial high-level dialogue. (Visits by Mr Ridley, Mr Hurd and Mr King, plus Princess Royal in next 4 months.)
- Welcome Supreme Soviet visit and expanding parliamentary contacts. Look forward to increasingly worthwhile exchanges: understand visit planned by second Supreme Soviet group later this month. Mutual interest in developing close links in this field.
- Hope Prime Minister Ryzhkov will be able to take up invitation to visit Britain this year. Very keen to give impetus to economic cooperation.
- UK keen to help reform process wherever possible by offering practical assistance to perestroika. Already arranging programme of management training at London Business School and outward visits by UK Management Consultants. Officials in touch about possible visit to UK to discuss defence factory conversion.
- Happy to consider any other ideas for cooperation. Medvedev's views on how we can help?

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The Germanies

- Interested in Mr Gorbachev's recognition (during Mr Modrow's visit to Moscow) that the question of German unity must now be addressed.
- Soviet thinking on the conditions you would wish to see met? Unified neutral Germany surely not in Soviet interests?

Europe

- Welcome Soviet approach towards developments in Eastern Europe. Essential that East European countries should have governments which they support and trust: Polish experience a good example. Elections must be genuinely free and fair.
- Ready to offer help to other countries, as to Poland and Hungary, once they are fully committed to reform. No desire to prop up out-moded political and economic structures.
- Equally, have made clear no wish to take advantage of developments in Eastern Europe to undermine Soviet security interests.
- EC Foreign Ministers agreed in Dublin on support in principle for CSCE Summit in 1990. Important not only sign CFE and if possible CSBMs, but prepare thoroughly future cooperation in evolving new European structure.

Jan,
Shpke

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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MEDVEDEV, Vadim Andreevich

Member of CPSU Politburo

Secretary of CPSU Central Committee

Chairman of Central Committee Ideological Commission

Born 1929 near Yaroslavl (RSFSR). Graduated in economics (Leningrad State University). Academic and subsequently party career. Member of Central Committee since March 1986. Politburo member since September 1988, when he also became Chairman of the newly established Central Committee Ideological Commission, dealing with ideological, press and cultural matters. Has been prominent in discussion of the "deideologisation" of foreign policy, but has hitherto rejected any questioning of Leninism or airing of "unhealthy" opinions which might threaten one-party rule. Has been prominent in relations between CPSU and Baltic parties, visiting Lithuania and Estonia in 1989, and Lithuania in January 1990 (at the time of Gorbachev's visit).

Not in the vanguard of progressive thinking, but conformist by nature and very loyal to Gorbachev's policies.

Not a member of the Supreme Soviet.

Married.