

afe



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*Prime Minister
Agree attendance
on the lines*

25 October 1984

Dear Charles,

*suggested?
CDP 25/10.*

Yes not

Soviet National Day Reception

Mr Popov, the Soviet Ambassador, will be holding his annual reception on the occasion of the anniversary of the October Revolution in early November. Given the virtual certainty of a high level Soviet visit to the UK later this year (details of which are known to you, but which remain confidential for the time being) the Foreign Secretary believes that Cabinet level attendance would be appropriate this year. He hopes to attend himself.

It is likely, however, that Mr Popov will scatter his invitations widely, and in order to avoid the risk of disproportionate attendance (bearing in mind that no Cabinet Minister has attended in recent years and the number of senior Russians who attend the Queen's Birthday Party in Moscow is very limited) the Foreign Secretary would be grateful if his colleagues' Private Secretaries would get in touch with this office if invitations are received which their Ministers would hope in principle to accept before any reply is sent to the Soviet Embassy. I will write again when we have a clearer picture of the overall numbers involved. In principle we shall be seeking to limit attendance to one or two Cabinet Ministers plus those junior ministers who have substantive business with the Russians.

I am copying this to Private Secretaries of all Ministers in charge of Departments with the request that they circulate it as necessary.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street