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ECLABS

bc. Sir PC.

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

26 November 1984

SUPREME SOVIET VISIT

Thank you for your letter of 23 November about Strelchenko's inclusion in the Supreme Soviet delegation for the visit to the UK, and the need for him to avoid participation in any public manifestation of support for the NUM.

The Prime Minister has noted the action taken to warn the Soviet authorities. She has commented, in relation to the argument that Strelchenko should not do anything which could be interpreted as interfering in our internal affairs, that we need to handle this carefully. We quite often involve ourselves in the Soviet Union's affairs by seeking clemency or exit visas for Soviet citizens. We should not say anything to them which will make it more difficult for us to go on doing so. In practice I do not think that situation has arisen.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Michael Reidy (Department of Energy), James Alty (Department of Trade and Industry) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(C D Powell)

C R Budd Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*Prime Minister*

23 November 1984

*CDP*

*23/11*

*Dear Charles,*

Supreme Soviet Visit

In your letter of 20 November you recorded the Prime Minister's agreement that an approach should be made to the Soviet Embassy to point out the likely press interest in Strelchenko's presence in the Supreme Soviet delegation and the need for him to avoid taking part in any public manifestation of support for the National Union of Mineworkers while in the UK.

On a "personal and informal" basis, the Head of the Soviet Department spoke on these lines to the Soviet Minister/Counsellor on 23 November. Posilyagin's response was reassuring. The Soviet side had no intention of interfering in British domestic politics. They had deliberately advised Mr Gorbachev to make visits to places in the UK which were not in or near mining communities. The programme was very full, and there would be no time for activities "falling outside the programme".

I think that following the press publicity last weekend for Mr Scargill's visit to the Soviet Embassy, Mr Lamont's intervention with the Soviet Ambassador on 21 November and the Head of Soviet Department's word with Posilyagin on 23 November, the domestic political sensitivity of the miners' strike and any connection with the Soviet Union must now be perfectly clear to the Russians.

There will no doubt be press interest in Strelchenko's presence in the delegation, when the list is more widely known. If asked, we would propose to say that he had been invited on a Parliamentary visit and as far as events organised by the Government are concerned, would be received in his Parliamentary capacity. We would expect, however, that he would be instructed to watch his step during the Delegation's visit and not to do anything which could be interpreted as interfering "in our internal affairs".

*- careful - we are always seeking*

*democracy & what / I am  
wishes for them for Soviet citizens.*

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I am sending copies of this letter to Michael Reidy (Department of Energy), James Alty (Mr Lamont's office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,*

*Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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