

S. Uwa



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State
Peter Blaker MP

1 April 1981

h.c. *Blaker*

Dear Cecil,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March to Ian Gilmour.

I agree that the Soviet text is unacceptable, and that our aims should be to go as far as we can to provide Rolls Royce with the support they need, consistent with protecting our own future freedom of action, while avoiding any negotiation over the terms of the assurance.

I am in general content with the draft letter to Mr Sushkov which you enclosed with your letter. I have, however, three small amendments to suggest:

- (i) Second sentence of paragraph 2 to read: 'Their participation would be an important example of cooperation between our two countries similar to that envisaged under
- (ii) The final sentence of paragraph 2 to read: 'As you know, the British Government has consistently made clear its support for the expansion of Anglo-Soviet trade on the basis of mutual advantage.'
- (iii) The beginning of the second sentence of paragraph 3 to read: 'As far as the present contract is concerned, while I am not authorised

I agree on the importance of the early despatch of the letter and full instructions for our Ambassador to use when handing over the letter to Mr Sushkov. My officials will be in touch with yours about this.

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I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours ever,
Blaker

Cecil Parkinson Esq MP
Minister of Trade
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street
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11 APR 1981

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