

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Private Office of the President

Adviser

Brussels, 6th June 1991
GH/js

AIDE-MEMOIRE

RE: MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR, MR. VORONINE,
6TH JUNE 1991

The new Ambassador emphasised the importance he attached to relations with the European Parliament, insisting that his Mission followed very closely the different votes on the question of aid and on the question of internal political developments. He indicated that he would do his best to ensure that a meeting with President GORBACHEV could take place during the President's forthcoming visit to the USSR. He also emphasised that perestroika was now at a decisive moment and that GORBACHEV was following a middle way between those who wanted to turn the clock back and those who wished to achieve a market economy immediately. The agreement between the President and the 9 republics has now stabilised the political situation.

The President welcomed this development, emphasising the hope and concern with which Parliament was following developments in the USSR and the way in which Parliament had encouraged aid to the Soviet Union. He mentioned that he had received many unofficial visitors, such as Mr. YELTSIN, but that the Parliament's partner remains in fact the Supreme Soviet. The President reiterated the invitations he has addressed to the Soviet President and Foreign Minister to come to the European Parliament as soon as possible.

J.S.

pp Geoff HARRIS

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NOTE FOR THE PRESIDENT

RE: MEETING WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, MR. LEV VORONINE, 6TH JUNE, 10.15

Enclosed are the biographical details we have received from the Soviet Mission. As you will recall, Mr. VORONINE replaced the previous Ambassador, who had in fact only been in Brussels a couple of years. This coincided with a number of major ambassadorial changes by the Soviet Government following the resignation of Mr. SHEVARDNADZE. Mr. VORONINE has been a very important political figure in recent years. He was until earlier this year first deputy Prime Minister, responsible for economic policy under Mr. RYZHKOV.

No doubt the Ambassador will want to bring you up to date on his view of the latest developments in the Soviet Union. In a week's time elections will take place for the President of the Russian Federation and there will be a referendum on the possible renaming of Leningrad. It is also likely that President GORBACHEV's invitation to London will be announced shortly. I think it might be worth re-emphasising the fact that, whilst Parliament has always supported the reform process in the Soviet Union, it has not remained indifferent to the violation of human rights and, for example, there is bound to be concern about the latest developments in Lithuania.

With regard to the invitation you have received from the Supreme Soviet, the Mission has been informed that you would like to undertake your visit during the week beginning 15th July and that in principle you would be interested in combining a visit to Moscow with a visit to Kiev. It has, however, been made as clear as possible that this visit will not go ahead unless a time for a meeting with President GORBACHEV is agreed. I would therefore suggest that you say to the Ambassador that you are in his hands, but that you would like his recommendation as to whether in the circumstances of the G7 meeting in London the dates originally agreed remain convenient.

Given the way previous meetings with the Supreme Soviet have been arranged, my impression is that the Mission only gets very limited last-minute information from the Supreme Soviet and I have a feeling that it will not be clear as to whether a meeting with President GORBACHEV has been arranged until much nearer the planned date for your visit.

Geoff HARRIS

VORONINE Lev Alexévitch

Né le 22 février 1928

Marié

Diplôme universitaire

A occupé plusieurs postes de responsabilité
dans le Gouvernement de l'URSS :

- 1980-1985 - Premier Vice-Président du Comité
d'Etat de l'URSS pour la planification
(GOSPLAN)
- 1985-1989 - Vice-Président du Conseil des
ministres de l'URSS
- 1989-1991 - Premier Vice-Président du Conseil
des ministres de l'URSS

Rang diplomatique : Ambassadeur extraordinaire et
plénipotentiaire.