



The Statesman's Wife

In December 1987, Mikhail Gorbachev, the leader of the Soviet Union, stopped off at RAF Brize Norton on his way to Washington. It was the first time in 31 years that a Soviet leader had set foot on British soil. Mr Gorbachev was accompanied by his wife, Raisa.



Mrs Gorbachev visiting Edith Moorhouse school



While Mr Gorbachev met with Mrs Thatcher in the Officers Mess at RAF Brize Norton, Raisa Gorbachev was taken on a visit to a local Primary School. Flag waving youngsters gave a rousing welcome to Mrs Gorbachev as she arrived at Edith Moorhouse School. She arrived in a Daimler and immediately went over to greet the crowd saying 'Hello, good day and greetings from my country'.

Once inside the school, Mrs Gorbachev watched a nativity play performed by the infants. Jemma, aged five told reporters that Raisa was 'a very nice lady. She's very pretty and she had a lovely fur coat. But I didn't know who she was'. After waving goodbye to the crowd she rejoined her husband and Mrs Thatcher for lunch.



Mrs Thatcher escorting Mr and Mrs Gorbachev to their plane as they leave Brize Norton for Washington.

The whole of Carterton was sealed off during the visit and top level security was put in place. Hundreds of journalists covered the visit.