

Prime Minister.

Discussed with Bernard.



We suggest that Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Foreign Ministers should not ~~Agreed in note~~ ^{over} ~~but~~
London SW1A 2AH

join the session - but instead

that you should brief the

31 May 1984

Foreign Secretary and Bernard after

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

the session on the line to

be taken with the press.

Dear John,

A. F. C. 31.
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SUMMIT

1. We discussed the arrangements for briefing the press after the Heads of Delegations' first morning meeting in the Music Room on Friday 8 June.

No - this has never been done but

2. Sir Robert Armstrong had always envisaged that it would be desirable for the Foreign Ministers to come and join Heads of Delegation briefly in the Music Room at the end of their session, say at 12.15, so that the Prime Minister could brief the Secretary of State in their presence about the line he should take, as host country Foreign Minister, in briefing the press. It has been agreed that at the end of this session the only Minister who will brief the press will be the British Foreign Secretary who would be expected to give a short account of the subjects discussed and the general tone of the meeting. As you know, we had envisaged that since there would not be time for Sir Geoffrey Howe to get to the Connaught Rooms and back before luncheon at Lancaster House he would do this briefing from the Lancaster House basement by closed-circuit television.

3. The logistic problem is that if the Foreign Ministers are to come into the room, even for a short time, they will need interpretation facilities, which means wires laid down and chairs in position. It would not look right to have eight empty chairs round the room during the session so I had planned to have the wiring laid on and to be prepared to bring in the chairs and plug in the earphones etc as the Foreign Ministers were coming into the room. It could be done, though it might be messy.

4. It would be easier if only the British Foreign Minister were brought in to be given his instructions, since we could bring one chair in very quickly. But this could cause resentment amongst his colleagues and mean that they would not take the same line in any briefing they might do later in the day.

5. I should be grateful for a steer from you as to the Prime Minister's wishes. I gather that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary may be inclined now not to give any sort of briefing until



the end of the lunch, but I know it is Sir Robert Armstrong's view, at least, that if we as hosts do not get an official briefing on the record after the morning session spokesmen from other delegations will all be putting out different versions.

Julius Nicolls,

N J Barrington

N J Barrington

copy to:

B Ingham Esq
10 Downing Street

R Hatfield Esq
Cabinet Office

Private Secretary
FCO

A J Goulden Esq
News Dept
FCO