

cc BOP

## PRIME MINISTER

## BILATERAL WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

You have a bilateral with the Foreign Secretary after Cabinet tomorrow. The main issues are likely to be:

- (i) Hong Kong debate. He may want to report on today's Hong Kong debate in the House (unless he has already done so in Cabinet).
- (ii) Crown Agents. You are to speak to the Lord President about the Foreign Secretary's request for parliamentary time for a Bill to privatise the Crown Agents.
- (iii) Syria. You will have seen in the box the minutes proposing that we authorise BA to try to secure restoration of overflying rights over Syria.
- (iv) Nigeria. You might mention the friendly message you have received from Babangida.
- (v) Trident. The outcome of officials' discussions with the Pentagon was reasonably reassuring. But you will want to raise it with the President.
- (vi) NATO Summit. The consensus in Brussels is for a meeting running through 2 and 3 March. It is hard to see how this time is to be filled - other than by 16 separate speeches. We should give a firm steer towards proper discussion.
- (vii) European Council. This seems likely to be on Thursday 11/Friday 12 February despite our efforts to make it a day later. Kohl has proposed coming to see you on 2 February (not ideal as it coincides with the Foreign Ministers' conclave). So far, preparations for the Council are most unpromising



with the Germans pursuing their own interests on agriculture. It will be very important to re-create your alliance with Lubbers (and the Commission when it comes to agriculture).

- (viii) Jordan/Tornado. We have got ourselves into difficulties over this, with the King pressing for an answer and the Americans most reluctant to agree.
- (ix) European Commission. The Foreign Secretary will probably mention that we shall soon need to start thinking about the succession to Delors, as well as to Lord Cockfield and Mr. Clinton-Davies. I think his personal preference is to see Delors and Clinton-Davies stay on, and replace Lord Cockfield (who probably wants to go anyway). I doubt you will be enthusiastic about Delors. I also doubt that you will want to take a bye-election to replace Lord Cockfield.

C.D.P.

C. D. POWELL

20 January 1988

SLHARU