

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

Points to be covered are:

(i) Foreign Affairs Council

He may wish to report how today's discussion went (the French do not seem to have made any trouble).

(ii) NATO Summit

He will report how negotiations on the text of the draft Declaration are going. On the face of it, the Americans seem to have settled with the Germans during Kohl's visit on language which will give the Germans scope to delay decisions on modernisation of nuclear weapons. There is a risk that the weaker brethren will want to dilute the language further still.

The Foreign Secretary may also mention the extent to which burden-sharing is likely to be a growing theme for the Americans irrespective of who wins the Election.

(iii) Relations with the Soviet Union

You will want to tell him in confidence of the approach we have had from the Soviet Ambassador and your intention to see him.

(iv) Afghanistan

The Foreign Secretary has written to follow up on your discussion of Afghanistan last week.

CONFIDENTIAL

(v) Waldheim

You are worried that no-one seems to have a firm grip on this. It is being handled by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence but risks falling between the two. The inquiry itself is in MoD hands, where it is being conducted by the Head of the Army Historical Branch with the assistance of two part-time clerks. I have told both Private Offices that you expect a Minister to be nominated to take control of this issue with appropriate official support. You may like to confirm this to the Foreign Secretary.

---

(vi) Visit to Morocco

He may try to argue that you should not tag a visit to Morocco on to your visit to Spain, on the grounds that it may devalue the latter in the eyes of your Spanish hosts.

I do not think this is a valid argument, and anyway it is the only time you can go until well into 1989. The Foreign Secretary may suggest that you tag it on to an eventual visit to the Front Line States. But Mr Kinnock has now announced that he is going to the Front Line States next year, which may disincline you to do so (unless you get in first).

C D P

C D POWELL

22 February 1988