

PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

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You have a bilateral with the Foreign Secretary tomorrow. The following are the points which he is likely to raise:-

- (i) Hijacking. He will want to give you an account of various discussions he had with other European countries in Brussels yesterday and the steps we are taking in ICAO. There was little enthusiasm among our European partners for any more action.
- (ii) Anglo/Irish relations. You will find in your box a draft message to the Taoiseach. Depending on how far you are content with this, it may be necessary to discuss the draft with the Foreign Secretary tomorrow. You should be aware that the press are contrasting your firm tone on Northern Ireland in the House this afternoon with the Foreign Secretary's more emollient speech at the weekend and are likely to write Thatcher v. Howe stories rather than Thatcher v. Haughey ones.
- (iii) Takeshita visit. He wants to raise this. I suspect the main purpose will be to stress the need to give a political dimension to the visit and not focus it exclusively on trade grievances.
- (iv) Gibraltar/PIRA. As you know "This Week" are proposing to do a programme on the shooting of the Irish terrorists in Gibraltar, alleging that it was a public execution. The Foreign Secretary has been in touch with Lord Thomson to try to dissuade him from allowing the programme to go forward, not least on the grounds that it will prejudice the inquest in Gibraltar.

- (v) The Gulf. He may refer to the suggestion in President Reagan's message for closer co-operation between western naval forces in the Gulf, which seem unexceptionable. There are reports from Washington that the Americans are intending to extend protection to neutral flag shipping when such ships are attacked in the vicinity of American warships. We shall need to consider the implications of this for the Armilla patrol.
- (vi) Governor of Bermuda. He will tell you that he has decided to appoint General Sir Desmond Langley, without great enthusiasm, because he cannot find anybody else.
- (vii) Mr Tam Dalyell. He is anxious to raise remarks made by Mr Dalyell in the Adjournment Debate on Friday about the Prime Minister's Private Office. You will find a note in the folder about this.
- (viii) PLO. I have passed your views to the Foreign Secretary and I do not think that the Foreign Secretary will contest your decision. It might be better not to raise the subject, but the papers are in the folder just in case.

(ix) South Africa. He still wants to go ahead with his proposed speech, which he says will be about (letter in folder).

Charles Powell

26 April 1988