

PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

You have a bilateral with the Foreign Secretary tomorrow. I understand the main issues which he wants to raise are the following.

European Council in Rome

He wants to discuss the game plan for the period up to the European Council in Rome. It is now only just over a month away. We need to try to construct a coalition of governments who are prepared to set modest and reasonable goals for the Council, rather than see it attempt a dramatic step forward, as the Italians will almost certainly wish (they will probably table proposed Treaty amendments). You are hoping for bilaterals in Paris with Chancellor Kohl and Mr Lubbers: and the Foreign Secretary will be seeing a number of Foreign Ministers over the next two weeks. We ought to be able to build on the feeling that the last Rome Council was not helpful and that it would be better to take things more steadily next time. We shall need a carefully worked out set of arguments to make our case, which both you and the Foreign Secretary could use.

CSCE Summit

I think the Foreign Secretary only wants to say that it is likely to be a fairly boring occasion with 35 Heads of Government having to speak, but worth going for the bilateral contacts and other meetings you can have in the margins. If there is a leadership election, you will be in Paris on the day the results are announced.

The Gulf

Jim Baker's visit last week gave a pretty clear indication of American intentions and plans. The main immediate questions are

the drafting of a UN Resolution (on which you gave approval to the FCO draft): and the question of sending additional British forces. We cannot act on that until Tom King returns from Saudi Arabia.

I have mentioned to the Foreign Secretary your provisional plan to pay a brief visit to the Gulf area straight after the Rome European Council.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The post has fallen vacant because the incumbent has gone back to Norway to be Foreign Minister. It is a rare opportunity for us to get our hands on a senior UN/international post. David Owen has expressed interest in it, but subsequently backed off a bit. I think the Foreign Secretary intends to ask you how you would react to the idea of nominating David Owen: and whether you have any other suggestions to make.

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL
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