

~~SECRET~~

~~C.F.~~  
#B06691 7914  
Co167  
PROOF-01  
FG006-12

~~SECRET~~  
DECLASSIFIED

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 15, 1988

NLS 85598-004 #154  
AS NARA, DATE 7/14/80

MEETING WITH BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER

DATE: November 16, 1988  
LOCATION: South Lawn/Oval Office  
TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
FROM: COLIN L. POWELL *CP*

I. PURPOSE

To reaffirm our special relationship with Great Britain, and to exchange views on key East-West and NATO issues.

II. BACKGROUND

Prime Minister Thatcher views her meeting with you as capping an extraordinary eight year contribution to the historical "special relationship" between both countries. Nevertheless, the purpose of her visit is not just to exchange accolades on the relationship, but to continue to build on it. She will be armed with an agenda, which she will want to pursue with you.

In 1987 Prime Minister Thatcher won her third election -- a 100 seat Parliamentary victory -- insuring her continuation as Prime Minister at a minimum through mid-1991. With her opposition weak and divided, she has been devoting more attention to foreign policy, trying to secure for Britain a central role in world affairs.

On East-West relations, Thatcher will be hosting a visit by General Secretary Gorbachev in London, December 12-14. She is currently focusing her attention on two issues. The first is East-West economic relations. Prime Minister Thatcher believes that it is in the West's interest for Gorbachev's Perestroika to succeed, but has insisted that political reform accompany economic changes, and that the West not subsidize East-West trade. At the same time, she has called on us to drop our "no exceptions policy" on dual-use technology trade in COCOM that we unilaterally set in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The second issue is the Soviet proposal to host a human rights conference in Moscow. She has written to you expressing her reservations, but suggested that Secretary Shultz and Foreign Secretary Howe develop jointly a set of conditions the Soviets must meet before the West can accept the Soviet proposal.

~~SECRET~~  
Declassify on: OADR

cc: Vice President  
Chief of Staff (2)

~~SECRET~~

Thatcher views the next several months as critical to the NATO Alliance. She feels that NATO's Comprehensive Study on arms control has dragged on for too long, and would like the Alliance to make a decision on modernizing shorter range nuclear systems (SNF). She also remains adamantly opposed to any decision on modernization linked to negotiations with the Soviets on these systems. She may want a read-out from you on your previous day's discussions with Chancellor Kohl on this subject.

Prime Minister Thatcher's assertiveness in advancing her vision of East-West and Alliance relations generates hostility from our European allies. Her image as autocratic and uncompromising was reinforced by an address she delivered September 20, 1988 entitled, "Britain in Europe." Her points -- all welcomed by us -- included a warning that in moving toward further reductions in trade barriers within Europe, the European Community should not encase Europe in a barrier of protectionism; an attack on the Community's agricultural policy as "unwieldy, inefficient, and grossly expensive;" and insistence that Europe shoulder a greater burden for defense. But, her speech was viewed in Europe as another attempt by Prime Minister Thatcher to dictate the extent of and limits to a united Europe.

Prime Minister Thatcher has focused attention on Eastern Europe as well. She visited Poland in early November, and remains deeply concerned about the stalemate between the regime and the Solidarity-led opposition. She is also apprehensive about the deteriorating economic and political situation in Yugoslavia.

Prime Minister Thatcher will be meeting with the Vice President, Secretary Shultz, and Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan. She will be accepting an award from Maryland's Queen Anne County Public Schools, and will also be interviewed by the major news networks. At her request, we have arranged for her to meet with Andrei Sakharov.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

See Tab D.

### IV. PRESS PLAN

Arrival Ceremony: Open Press  
Photo Op/One-on-One: Open Photo, Writing Pool.

V. SEQUENCE

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Pre-brief - Oval Office.  
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Arrival Ceremony - South Lawn  
10:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. Photo Op/One-on-One - Oval Office  
10:40 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Plenary Meeting - Oval Office

## Attachments

Tab I Memo for the President  
Tab A Shultz Scope Paper  
Tab B One-on-One Points to be Made  
Tab C Plenary Points to be Made  
Tab D List of Participants  
Tab E Biography