Peleurd

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

c.c. Mr. Whitmore
Mr. Ingham
Mr. Gow

Poland

Lord Carrington telephoned the Prime Minister this afternoon at 1230. He said that he had just received a message from Secretary of State Haig. The Americans would be announcing some fairly severe sanctions against the USSR later today. The sanctions would not include cancellation of the disarmament talks in Geneva. But they would include measures such as the cancellation of Aeroflot landing rights, a halt to negotiations on the sale of grain, a halt to the export of material for constructing natural gas pipelines, etc. The message from Haig asked the Ten to take comparable measures.

Lord Carrington said that a meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Ten was now urgent. He had sent a message to Cheysson asking him to change his mind, and agree to such a meeting on Thursday. Cheysson was in Athens today, and would be in Ethiopia tomorrow, and communicating with him was very difficult. A meeting of Foreign Ministers tomorrow would be impossible to arrange. But Haig's message could be considered by the Political Directors on Wednesday, and by Foreign Ministers on Thursday. In case this proved impossible, Lord Carrington said that he had told Tindemans, who would be taking overthe Presidency on Friday, that he considered a meeting should be held before next week.

Lord Carrington said that he had now made it public that the UK wanted a meeting to be held, and that it was the French who had been dragging their feet. He had been prompted to do this partly by the fact that the French had now blamed us for dragging our feet over the setting up of the meeting.

On substance, Lord Carrington said that it would be very difficult to reach a consensus in the Ten. He felt that the Americans were focussing more on East-West relations than on the situation in Poland. President Reagan had received a rude response to his message to Brezhnev. The measures they intended to announce today

were a gesture against Russian intereference in Polish affairs. In Lord Carrington's view, the Americans were playing the sanctions card far too soon.

Lord Carrington ended by saying that he would report to the Prime Minister again after the meeting of the Political Directors of the Ten.

Corsn