

00

1700
a.s

RESTRICTED

CCPC
①



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

An important and influential Group. You could see them on 5 July. There is a space in the diary. But you may think it's enough

On the whole I think you ought to Agree to see them?

25 June 1985

Dear Charles, for Foreign Sec, Defence Sec } to see them.

Yes not CDP 25/6

Visit to London by Senate Arms Control Observer Group

We have been informed by the US Embassy that a Senate Arms Control Observer Group will visit Geneva, Bonn and London during the forthcoming Congressional recess. They have asked to call on the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Defence.

The delegation will land in London at 0925 on Friday 5 July and depart at 1400 on Sunday 7 July. It will be led by co-Chairmen Ted Stevans (Rep-Alaska), Sam Nunn (Dem-Georgia) and Claiborne Pell (Dem-Rhode Island). Others in the delegation are Senators Edward M Kennedy (Dem-Massachusetts), Charles M C C Mathias Jr (Rep-Maryland), Gary Hart (Dem-Colorado), Daniel P Moynihan (Dem-New York) and Albert Gore Jr (Dem-Tennessee). Senators Stevens, Nunn, Pell and Gore will be accompanied by their wives.

This standing group observed the INF negotiations and now observes the Geneva talks. They are regarded by the Administration as helpful given their close involvement in and understanding of the issues, and their potentially valuable role if Senate ratification of any agreement were required.

We strongly recommend that both the Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary meet the Group if they are able to do so. This is a top-ranking delegation, including Senators with Presidential potential as well as wide-ranging current interests and considerable influence. The Embassy in Washington advise that it would be in our interests to accord them every courtesy.

The Foreign Secretary proposes to host a small working lunch for the Group on 5 July, and we understand that the US Ambassador proposes to host a reception in their honour later in the day.

I should be grateful to know your views and those of the PS/Defence Secretary.

/The

RESTRICTED



The Prime Minister may wish to be aware that Senator Deconcini (Dem-Arizona), will also visit London for discussions on Northern Ireland and bilateral issues from 4-8 July. He is likely to call on Mr Hurd and FCO and NIO officials. A delegation from the House Foreign Affairs Committee (led by its chairman Rep Dante Fascell) will pass through London from the afternoon of 5 July to Sunday 7 July en route back to Washington from visits to Oslo and CDE meetings in Stockholm. The Delegation has not requested any officials calls and is rather more junior in composition than the Senate Group, but we are informing the British-American Parliamentary Group and are considering whether there are any appropriate social events to which the delegation might be invited.

I am copying this letter to Private Secretaries to the Secretaries of State for Defence, Northern Ireland, Home Department, Trade and Industry, Energy, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Minister for Agriculture and Cabinet Secretary.

*Yours ever,
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street