

*Copy to Mr. John Miles*

*drawn attention to*

*7*

*e.g.*

*A. & C. 2/4*

*f.a.*



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-~~4307822~~ 218 2111/3

MO 18/1/2

19th April 1983

*Dear Minister,*

NUCLEAR ISSUES

I enclose a note of the main points agreed at last Monday's meeting of the group.

Copies go to the Private Secretaries to the other Ministerial Members of the Group, and to Bernard Ingham (No 10) and Denis Brennen (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely  
Nick Evans*

(N H R EVANS)

A M Russell Esq

NUCLEAR POLICY AND PUBLIC OPINION: MINISTERIAL GROUP

1. At the meeting in the Ministry of Defence on 18 April, it was agreed that:-

- a. it would be unwise to take concerted central Government/local authority action to move against the Greenham Common peace camp. It would, however, be prudent for Mr Blaker to see Mr Gimblett and other local Conservatives to reassure them of the Government's understanding of their position.
- b. the Secretary of State would write to the General Secretary of the British Council of Churches, setting out the terms on which he would give evidence to them - and explaining why the format proposed for the May 23 hearing was unacceptable.
- c. Chapman Pincher's offer of help was, in general, to be welcomed. As a first step the Secretary of State would himself see Mr Pincher to discuss the options with him.
- d. It was worth proceeding with opinion poll questions of the kind proposed. The Secretary of State's office would explore the possibility of the Daily Mail funding the exercise; otherwise Conservative Central Office would undertake the task. When the answers were available, fresh consideration should be given to how they should be used; it might be advisable to avoid a "poll war" with CND.
- e. The Secretary of State would take the opportunity of his speech in Exeter on Saturday, 23 April to draw attention to CND's call for an attack on Conservative candidates in marginal constituencies. This initiative might usefully take the form

of an open letter to all such candidates.

f. Conservative Central Office, after discussion with the MOD, would proceed with the production of a pamphlet linking previous Labour Party advertisements on defence to the Labour party's current defence policy.

g. The opportunity should be taken of Chancellor Kohl's visit to the UK. at the end of the week to lay emphasis on the disarmament aspects of the NATO twin-track decision.