



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

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

MO 14/2

8th June 1984

cc Mr Coles
Mr Ingham

Just
8/6

Dear John,

At a meeting of the Ministerial Group on Nuclear Weapons and Public Opinion on Monday at which Bernard Ingham was present, there was some discussion of the increasingly evident anti-Americanism of the "peace movement" and others opposed to the Government's defence policies and of the disruption planned this weekend. It was felt that the Prime Minister might wish to speak about the importance of the US commitment to Europe at her Summit press conference on Saturday. Some speaking notes are attached.

Mr Heseltine would propose to follow this up with further comment later in the weekend if events justify this and a media opportunity remains after the Summit coverage.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bone (FCO), to the Private Secretaries to the Ministerial members of the Group and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours etc,

Richard Mottram

(R C MOTTRAM)

A J Coles Esq

DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

We have been celebrating this week the momentous event of 40 years ago. It was a supreme effort by all the countries involved, but no one should doubt the vital importance of the huge commitment of US manpower, material and moral resources for the success of D-Day.

We have since the War enjoyed an unrivalled period of peace in Europe. But this has not been through the efforts of European countries alone. That is why the full participation in the NATO Alliance of the United States and Canada, with their commitment to the defence of Western Europe equally with their own, has always been an essential and indispensable element of Western European security.

This commitment is clear and unequivocal. The presence in Europe of half a million US and Canadian Servicemen and dependants is its most visible proof and symbol.

But we cannot rely on conventional defence alone. NATO's nuclear deterrent forces - and in particular the nuclear forces of the United States - are an essential element of NATO's security, and we need to maintain this deterrent capability in the defence of Western Europe. We do not doubt that commitment, but we must also ensure that no one else doubts it, either. That is the purpose behind the 1979 twin track decision to modernise INF forces and seek an INF arms control agreement.

We are an alliance of free nations. We debate and discuss our policies in public. Sometimes people see this debate as a

source of weakness. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is our underlying strength that we have to engage in a process of persuading and enthusing our peoples to policies that depend on their support.

Any differences are transcended by the common interest between NATO nations. We are working together to promote that common interest, to continue with the policies that have kept the peace in Europe for 35 years, an essential element of which is the continued and unequivocal US commitment to the defence of Europe.

LES Policy 8.6.84

Working Dinner

Statement of Democratic Values

Following D Day, must all look ahead.

Want to get off to good start by issuing statement tomorrow. So will discuss at noon.

Sherpas will work on text tonight.

Hope you will agree to simple, bold text. Know that some want to add passages on East/West, Gulf, etc. Prefer to deal with these separately. Foreign Ministers will draft and we can discuss at lunch tomorrow.

/ Terrorism

Terrorism

Don't want to discuss now. But would like to discuss either towards end of afternoon plenary tomorrow or at dinner tomorrow night. Then agree a press release.

Concentrate tonight on following.

East/West

Soviets in hibernation. No movement likely for some months.

West must keep nerve. Not be rattled into making concessions.

Stay united and firm.

Readiness for dialogue - but should be measured and controlled (no rush to Moscow).

/ Arms Control

Arms Control

No concessions in face of Soviet intransigence.

Stress readiness to return to negotiations at any time without pre-conditions.

Deployments must continue.

Underline efforts at Stockholm, Vienna and Geneva (Chemical Ban).

Gulf

Latest sitrep to follow.

Still expect Iranian offensive.

Believe Iraqis can hold out provided misrule lasts.

Concern re attacks on shipping - immediate problem is to limit these.

/ Little

Little prospect of successful mediation
in near future.

Oil market relatively calm.
Stock levels high enough to cover any
likely period of disruption.