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cc F20

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 May 1985

Dear Mrs. Ferraro,

Thank you so much for the very pretty bowl which you so kindly left for me. It is very simple and very elegant and will be a happy reminder of an enjoyable and interesting conversation. It was a most generous thought.

I hope that we shall have a chance to meet again and send you my best wishes.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Whelan

Mrs. Geraldine Ferraro.

—
JG



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 April, 1985

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Prime Minister

I don't think you need any briefs.

Mrs. Ferraro is very unsound on Ireland and arms control. I suggest

Dear Charles,

Call on the Prime Minister by Mrs Geraldine Ferraro

The Prime Minister has as you know agreed to see Mrs Geraldine Ferraro on 29 April. The Embassy in Washington tell us that Mrs Ferraro will probably wish to concentrate on Northern Ireland, East/West relations, SDI, and South Africa.

that you focus on these subjects - and on Democratic prospects.

We understand the Northern Ireland Office are providing separate briefing. I enclose notes on the other subjects, plus a personality note on Mrs Ferraro. She will be accompanied by the US Deputy Chief of Mission, Ray Seitz.

Mrs Ferraro's visit to Europe will take her to Denmark, Italy and France before London. She will then also visit Dublin, from where she will go on to Belfast on 3 May.

CDP 26/4

In London Mrs Ferraro will meet Mr Heseltine and Mr Hurd; also Messrs Kinnock, Owen and Steel, and Mrs Shirley Williams. Mrs Ferraro will in addition meet journalists and other Parliamentarians, and address the Oxford Union on 1 May.

[We have arranged a photo-call upstairs: I hope this is all right]

It is widely expected that Mrs Ferraro will contest the New York Senate seat which comes up for re-election in November 1986, and is currently held by a Republican, Senator d'Amato. The Prime Minister may wish to ask Mrs Ferraro about this and about the electoral prospects for the Democratic Party as a whole.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

GERALDINE ANNE FERRARO

Born New York 1935. BA Marymount College, New York 1956. Admitted to the New York Bar after obtaining a law degree from Fordham University in 1960.

Mrs Ferraro had her own private law practice from 1961-74. From 1974 to 1978 she was an Assistant District Attorney in Queens County, New York. During this time she specialised in prosecuting crimes against the elderly, child abuse, domestic violence and rape. She was elected to the 96th Congress in 1978 and was re-elected to the 97th and 98th Congresses.

In 1984 Walter Mondale chose Mrs Ferraro as his running mate for the Presidential election; she was the first female Vice-Presidential candidate for one of the major American parties. Throughout the campaign Mrs Ferraro suffered as a result of her husband's alleged business irregularities. This created problems in the Democratic camp and was certainly detrimental to the Mondale/Ferraro ticket. Earlier this year Mr Zaccaro was sentenced to 60 hours community service for the mishandling of a clients' funds.

Mrs Ferraro has voted against most of President Reagan's weapons programmes, she has supported a nuclear freeze and a unilateral test moratorium, and a delay in the deployment of Cruise and Pershing Missiles in Western Europe. She has opposed aid to the Contras in Nicaragua and to the Government of El Salvador. Although a Catholic she supports the Federal funding for abortion.

Mrs Ferraro is generally supportive of Irish-American causes in the United States. It is believed that she was one of the dozen members of Congress who signed a petition urging the Administration to lift its ban on the entry of Gerry Adams. She married John Zaccaro in 1960, they have three children; Donna (23), John (21), and Laura (18).

May 1985



CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY MRS GERALDINE FERRARO : 29 APRIL

EAST/WEST RELATIONS

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Propaganda remains principal Soviet foreign policy vehicle. Russians aware that Gorbachev image useful to them.
2. Statements since Gorbachev succession indicate some changes of tone, but none of substance (eg his 8 April interview with Pravda spoke of better relations with US and West but gave no ground on arms control issues).
3. Gorbachev 23 April statement to Central Committee short on new ideas, harsh tone, gloomy.
4. Probably a good thing that possible first US/Soviet Summit some way off. Time for understandable US bad feelings over Nicholson to dissipate. Gorbachev visit to UN in Autumn looks likely; would presumably be occasion for meeting with Reagan.
5. Nex six months could be difficult for West. Soviet wedge driving. Disappointing expectations of new Soviet leadership. Underlines need for Western co-ordination.
6. The economy Gorbachev's first priority. Promotion of technocrat Ryzhkov to full Politburo membership token of this. But will trying to make existing machine work better be enough?



ESSENTIAL FACTS

- A 1. Gorbachev's attack on US in speech to Central Committee Plenum 23 April further evidence of Soviet wedge driving over INF, SDI.
- B Alleged US not trying for agreement at Geneva. No new proposals on arms control in 8 April Pravda interview: unilateral moratorium announced by Brezhnev in 1982; mutual freeze first mooted in 1979.
2. Interest in contact with Western leaders. Informal suggestion by Pravda Editor of Gorbachev visit to UN in September/October. Meeting with President Reagan is likely. Gorbachev accepted invitation to visit France in meeting with Mitterrand at Chernenko's funeral.
3. Warsaw Pact Heads of Party and Government in Warsaw on 26 April. Warsaw Pact likely to be renewed without significant change for further 20 years.

North America Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
26 April 1985