



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 December 1985

② *WPC*

*Prime Minister
Exceller: it was
a rotten statement
CDP 11/iii*

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Dear Charles,

Follow-up to the European Council: Possible Statement
on Geneva Summit & East/West

Thank you for your letter of 9 ^{attached} December on European Council follow-up.

The draft statement on the Geneva Summit and East/West Relations, which did not issue at Luxembourg, will be considered again at the Foreign Affairs Council on 17 December. The Secretary of State argued in Luxembourg, along with the Prime Minister, that the statement which Political Directors had put together was too long and woolly, and insufficiently positive on Geneva. The Foreign Secretary believes these arguments have greater force two weeks later, and therefore that the statement as drafted should not issue.

Quite right

The question is whether we should attempt to float any alternative text. We have concluded that this is not desirable. The purpose of the exercise was to give a display of unity after Geneva. This will be done much more effectively at the end of this week at the Ministerial meeting of the NAC in Brussels. The Foreign Secretary does not believe that a different sort of statement of European attitudes to East/West relations (the sort of thing the French would like to see - characteristically they seem worried that US/Soviet rapprochement will limit the scope for a European role) would be appropriate at a moment when we have a major interest in preserving solidarity with the Americans.

Sir Geoffrey concludes that it would be right for him to argue strongly for no statement at all on this subject at next week's FAC.

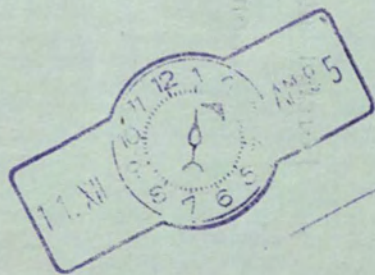
*[Presumably
a
Norman
cousin of
Mr Foreign Secretary]*

*Yours,
Le Appleyard*
(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

ms

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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