

PRIME MINISTER

US SOVIET SUMMIT

has seen
EDD
13/4

I attach some telegrams from Washington.

We need line for Bernard to start to use with the press. I attach a draft of some points we could make.

I think there is a strong case for you, during the day, to telephone President Reagan. My worry is that he will use his television appearance this evening to point himself further into the corner on SDI, rather than by emphasising the extent of agreement reached on other arms control issues and the need to press ahead with negotiations on them. Alternatively we could do a very quick message (or both).

Agree?

ESP

CHARLES POWELL

13 October 1986

VC2AMN

US/SOVIET SUMMIT

Points for No. 10 spokesmen to make.

1. Considered reaction must await briefing by Secretary Shultz in North Atlantic Council and bilateral contacts. The Prime Minister will be seeing an emissary from Mr. Gorbachev tomorrow.
2. What is surprising is not that President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev failed to reach complete agreement, but that they appear to have been able to make so much progress. Reykjavik was never billed as a meeting where agreements would be reached.
3. That they were able to make substantial progress is the result of the firmness and unity of the Alliance. It is important that this should be maintained in the present situation. The Russian aim is clearly to sow dissension in the Alliance.
4. It is disappointing that the Russians have not agreed a date for a further Summit. But they have not ruled one out.
5. The task now will be to see whether it is possible to build on what has been agreed. It would be highly irresponsible of the Soviet Union to walk away from talks and from continuing discussions on the issues on which agreement appears to be close.
6. We regard it as a step backward by the Russians to make agreement on all other issues dependent upon acceptance of their demands on SDI.
7. The Government's position on the SDI remains one of support for SDI research within the terms of the ABM Treaty. The Americans cannot be expected to renounce pursuit of strategic defence.

8. We shall wait with interest to see whether the Opposition adopt their usual knee-jerk reaction of blaming the Americans.

9. The result of the Reykjavik meeting does not affect either way the likelihood of the Prime Minister paying visits to Washington and Mosocw in due course.