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DG28NS



cc: P.C.

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From the Private Secretary

13 October 1986

US/SOVIET SUMMIT

I enclose a note with points which the No. 10 spokesman will use with the press this morning in commenting on the outcome of the US/Soviet Summit in Reykjavik. The Prime Minister particularly wishes to stress the point that the Soviet Union took a considerable step backwards in making agreement on all other issues dependent upon acceptance of their demands on the Strategic Defence Initiative. If this was their intention in going to Reykjavik, it was clearly designed to bring about the failure of the meeting and they must take the blame for that. She proposes to make this point to Mr. Karpov tomorrow.

The Prime Minister intends to try to speak to President Reagan on the telephone later today to try to influence what he says in his television broadcast on the outcome of the Summit. As I told you earlier this morning, it would be helpful to have a short note which could be the basis for her to speak to the President or, failing that, to send as a message. Could this please reach me by lunchtime today.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Howe (Ministry of Defence) and Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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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 achieved. 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. At the Geneva Summit they accepted that an INF agreement could be separate.

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. 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.