



United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

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JUL 13 1987

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
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RELEASED IN FULL

TO: The Secretary

FROM: EUR - Rozanne L. Ridgway *Ridgway*

SUBJECT: Scope Paper for Visit of UK Prime Minister Thatcher,
July 16-17, 1987

I WHERE DOES OUR RELATIONSHIP STAND?

- o An assured conservative government and Prime Minister are back in place in London, friendly and admiring but also critical at times and interested in asserting their own views and priorities.
- o Opponents of Britain's independent nuclear deterrent and the UK role as a leading military member of NATO were decisively defeated in June and are now in disarray.
- o Our views on most major foreign policy questions coincide, but Mrs. Thatcher puts a slightly different spin on arms control, dealing with Gorbachev the reformer, the Middle East peace process, and relations with Syria.
- o Britain is becoming more and more a part of Europe-- institutionally, economically, and psychologically--but still maintains an independent view on Community issues and a willingness to assert those views in the face of a contrary EC consensus. The US/UK special relationship still exists.
- o More than most industrial countries, Mrs. Thatcher's UK shares our view of the desirability of free trade, the productive value of free enterprise, the need to bring Japan and other surplus trading countries into line, and agricultural reform.

II. WHAT DO WE WANT FROM THIS VISIT?

- o Mrs. Thatcher's public reaffirmation of support for our positions on arms control issues and our negotiating strategy with the Soviets.
- o British understanding of and support for our tactics in dealing with Asad and Syria.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Homme, Senior Reviewer

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The official visit of Prime Minister
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- o A further expression of British support for our actions in the Persian Gulf and our program to protect Kuwaiti shipping.
- o Coordination of our public and private approaches toward an international conference on peace in the Middle East and on the role of the Soviet Union in that process.

III. WHAT DOES MRS. THATCHER WANT FROM THIS VISIT?

- o To begin her third term with a successful and very public visit to the United States and meeting with her number one friend, the President.
- o To enhance her public status as a major player in East-West relations.
- o To discuss how we intend to approach arms control and other East/West issues in our negotiations with the Soviets.
- o To offer her advice on how to deal with Gorbachev, particularly at a summit meeting.
- o To lobby the President on the desirability of an international conference on peace in the Middle East.
- o To explain her views on foreign and domestic issues to a broader American audience in television interviews, broadening her exposure as a major world leader.

IV. WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED FROM THIS VISIT?

- o Given the frequency of meetings and the closeness of our relations, both sides know what can be accomplished during the visit and have realistic expectations.
- o At minimum we will have a full and candid exchange of views with Mrs. Thatcher and conclude with harmonious and mutually supportive public statements.
- o Mrs. Thatcher will give the President an enthusiastic endorsement for negotiating an INF agreement with the Soviets, for a summit meeting with Gorbachev, and for the President's leadership in the Gulf.
- o We are unlikely to achieve complete harmony of views on an international peace conference for the Middle East, but we will be able to avoid working at cross purposes in the region.

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