

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

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FACT SHEET: EAST WEST RELATIONS

I. A COMMON AGENDA

- o At Venice and Reykjavik Allies endorsed four point agenda (arms control, human rights, regional conflicts, bilateral exchanges).
- o May 7, Howe identified "litmus test" issues in each area:
 - withdrawal from Afghanistan
 - effective verification of arms control
 - sustained improvement in human rights.

II. ACTIVE PROGRAM FOR COMING MONTHS

- o British
 - Howe probably to Moscow, perhaps November.
 - Probably meet Shevardnadze at UNGA.
 - In 1988, may invite Gorbachev to Britain.
 - Ongoing experts talks on Middle East, Africa, planning and arms control.
- o US: Ministerials, experts talks, possible Summit.
- o CSCE: Western draft mandate for conventional stability talks and talks on confidence and security building measures tabled July 10 in Vienna.
 - CSCE Vienna Round will not end by July 31: conclusion by end of year. The two new negotiations to begin within six months.
 - Pressing for human rights compliance: changes in laws and regulations. Will not sacrifice human rights to get other talks started. Remaining non-committal on Moscow human rights conference.
- o Afghanistan: Keys are short timetable for withdrawal, arrangements for interim regime.
- o We plan intense, visible consultations with Allies.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Homme, Senior Reviewer

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The official visit of Prime Minister
Thatcher July 17, 1987*