

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

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FACT SHEET: CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE (CSCE)

I. BACKGROUND

- o Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting moving into final phase; Western objective remains a balanced concluding document among all areas of the CSCE emphasizing improved Eastern human rights performance and genuine autonomy for new conventional stability talks (CST).
- o Negotiations on concluding document text going well. NATO solidarity good but France balking on CST autonomy; UK strongly supportive of our positions in both areas.
- o No guarantee, however, that meeting will end soon; obstacles remain in both human rights and security areas.
 - Soviet desire to host a human rights conference in Moscow remains a major hurdle.

II. HUMAN RIGHTS

- o UK had strongly opposed a Moscow human rights meeting. We worked out common human rights performance criteria under which both US and UK could agree to attend a Moscow conference.
 - NATO Allies welcomed the US-UK approach.
 - The criteria have been delivered to Moscow; the initial Soviet reaction was negative.
- o Soviets threaten to reject human rights meetings in the West if Moscow meeting is not accepted. We need such meetings if outcome of Vienna is to be "balanced."
- o Despite our joint criteria effort, Thatcher continues to have strong doubts about attending a conference in the USSR.
 - Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Howe made speeches in late October outlining the conditions necessary for UK acceptance of a Moscow conference and emphasized that Britain has not yet agreed to go.

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Working visit of U.K.
Prime Minister Thatcher