

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY GROUP
FIFTH MEETING: MONDAY 13th OCTOBER 1986

Present: Prime Minister (in the Chair)
 Lord President
 Home Secretary
 Party Chairman
 Chief Whip

Also present: Mr Alison
 Professor Griffiths
 Mr Sherbourne Mr Harris (Secretary)

Apologies: Foreign Secretary
 Chancellor of the Exchequer

1. Follow-up to the Party Conference

The Prime Minister congratulated the Party Chairman on the organisation of a successful Party Conference. The Chairman reported that the initiatives announced at the Conference would be followed up in several ways. There would be a Party Political Broadcast on 22nd October for which Ministers would be filmed during the week. It had not been decided whether further press advertising was required. A response to Mr Kinnock's forthcoming visit to West Germany would be organised. Briefing from the Conservative Research Department would be sent on the Conference announcements to MPs and Constituencies. It was, however, important that each colleague should seek publicity for his own 'moves forward': presentation of the Government's arguments on defence was also crucial.

It was agreed that a co-ordinated exercise to undermine Labour promises was necessary. The Prime Minister asked the Chairman, in co-operation with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Conservative Research Department, to organise this.

2. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the crucial areas for the Strategy Group to consider were: defence, law and order, employment, health and education. The relevant Secretaries of State would be asked to make presentations on these subjects to the Group. The dates for these would be:

3rd November: Law and order;

17th November: defence;

24th November: health.

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3. Forthcoming Events

The Strategy Group considered the issues and events of the next fortnight.

PM The Prime Minister would raise at the next Cabinet Meeting two forthcoming events: bus de-regulation and City de-regulation. She would also discuss the handling of the Anglo-Irish Agreement anniversary (15th November) with Mr King.

4. BBC Bias

NT The Chairman said that he planned to send a report on the BBC's biased coverage of the American retaliation against Libya to the Corporation's Director-General.

RH/CR
14.10.86

NOTES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

1. You will want to thank the Chairman for a very successful conference.
2. The meeting must decide what action needs to be taken and by whom where there is concern.
3. The meeting should discuss:-

(a) should there be compiled a long term diary of political events for the next twelve months for the group to look at in the strictest confidence

(b) whether there should be meetings of the group on specific subjects in the order of importance as follows:-

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|-------|---|---------------|---|-----|
| (i) | } | education | } | = |
| (ii) | | health | | =) |
| (iii) | | jobs | | . |
| (iv) | | law and order | | 99. |
| (v) | | defence | | . |

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STEPHEN SHERBOURNE
13.10.86

AGENDA FOR STRATEGY GROUP MEETING ON MONDAY 13th OCTOBER

1. Proposals for future meetings of the
 Strategy Group between now and
 Christmas

2. Report from the Chairman on the follow
 up to the Conference

3. Forward political diary for the coming
 two or three weeks.

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