



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 June 1981

*Don Michael,*Political Discussion at the Ottawa Summit

On 17 February, George Walden wrote to you about preparations for the political side of this year's Seven-Power Summit. Your reply of 18 February recorded the Prime Minister's approval of Lord Carrington's recommendation that the preparations should be started in the quadripartite forum.

Since then there has been some brief discussion in meetings of quadripartite Ministers and Political Directors. There is a general feeling, which Lord Carrington shares, that any political discussion at Ottawa should be in an East-West framework, and that the question of trade and economic relations with the Soviet Union, on which the Americans have circulated a paper, will probably have to be discussed in this same general context.

If the Russians invade Poland between now and the Summit, the latter will no doubt issue a statement of condemnation. But the uncertainty over Soviet intentions may well persist until the Summit, which begins on the day after the Polish Party Congress is due to end. If so, the Summit is unlikely to wish to make any very specific declaration on East-West relations. Lord Carrington would however see merit in a declaration, if this could be secured, about the overall approach of the Seven Powers in East-West relations. This would be a signal of unity between the major NATO powers and Japan. It would also show that the three new Heads of State or Government (American, French and Japanese) are at one with those leaders who have been in office for some time. We would seek a declaration which set out a policy designed both to deal with the Soviet Union and to unite the West. The policy should embrace the elements which have been mentioned in the Prime Minister's speeches on East-West relations: firm defences, thorough Western consultations, East-West contacts at all levels, negotiations (CSCE, arms control as an element in security policy) and efforts to reduce the scope for Soviet opportunism in the developing world.

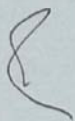
A quadripartite meeting of Political Directors is to take place in London on 15 June. Lord Carrington suggests that our representatives should float the idea of such a

/declaration.



declaration. If our partners reacted well, Lord Carrington would have a draft prepared for the Prime Minister to consider. But if our partners were reluctant, as it seems the French may be, we should look at the matter again.

I am copying this letter to David Wright in Sir Robert Armstrong's office.

Yours ever,


(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

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From the Private Secretary

12 June 1981

Political Discussion at the Ottawa Summit

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 12 June on this subject. She would be content for our representative at the meeting of Political Directors on Monday 15 June to float the idea of making a declaration at Ottawa on East-West relations.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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