

PRIME MINISTER

STRATEGY MEETINGS: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Some suggestions for handling.

THURSDAY

East/West Relations: meeting with academics (0900)

We have allowed four hours for this, followed by lunch.

All participants have copies of the eight academic papers.

Michael Kaser has grouped them under four headings (see page 1 of academic folder), namely "System", "Society", "Economy" and "Power". S S E P.

You can allow about one hour for each subject, though I suggest we have a break half-way through the morning.

Under each heading, the two academics who have written papers have been asked to speak for five minutes each (one immediately following the other). They will introduce their papers, not by repeating their contents but by selecting points of emphasis and suggesting issues for discussion.

After the two have spoken, you could allow 50 minutes for discussion. Participants should be encouraged to be brief.

The aim of the morning session is really to establish a picture of what the Soviet Union (and Eastern Europe) is like - as a background to the official discussion in the afternoon of what the British Government should do. But we should constantly encourage the academics to say what they think the Government should do.

Everyone will be full of theories about the Korean aircraft. I suggest that you do not let that subject dominate the discussion - we could postpone the theories till lunchtime.

OFFICIAL SESSIONS

These begin at 2.30 on the first day (i.e. immediately after the academics leave).

/Britain's global

Britain's global interests and priorities

FLAG A I suggest that you begin by spending 45 minutes (no more) on the FCO paper on this subject. It is important to take a brief look at the range of our interests and problems before plunging into East/West relations again - the Foreign Secretary argues this strongly in his new minute (attached) which I hope you will read in full.

But I suggest that after 45 minutes you bring the discussion to an end and conclude that:

- (a) the paper is noted as a useful description of our interests and priorities;
- (b) as the Foreign Secretary suggests, the FCO should, in consultation with the Treasury, MOD and other interested Departments, produce a paper looking "at likely overall levels of expenditure on the whole range of our external interests and at the allocation of resources as between the different instruments of policy".

East/West Relations

We then have the rest of the day to formulate, in the light of the previous discussions, the Government's policy on East/West relations for the next five years.

I suggest you take this in two parts:

- (a) The Summary of Conclusions on pages 1 to 10 of of the FCO paper.

Which of these are approved, rejected or need amendment as a basis for future strategy?

- (b) The Action Programme at Annex B of the FCO paper.

Similarly, are all these points accepted?

/ Finally,

12.36.
K

64

128

32

H

Finally, I suggest that you ask the Foreign Secretary, in the light of the discussion, to prepare a paper for OD on our East/West strategy and to let you see it in draft before circulation.

FRIDAY

Arms Control and Disarmament (0930 to 1300)

There are four papers but you should concentrate on the one entitled "Arms Control: The Strategic Agenda".

You might divide the morning into two parts:

Part I

Discuss the four key questions on page 1 of the paper.

On the third of these, the Defence Secretary has sent you a minute arguing that Britain should pursue a more distinctive role in arms control and disarmament matters. The Foreign Secretary's minute referred to above comments on this point.

FLAG B

FLAG A

Part II

After a break you could then ask the meeting to go through the check list annexed to the paper which describes the state of work on each of the arms control negotiations. In each case the meeting should consider whether or not it is necessary to commission new work.

Middle East (1130)

The paper was written before the latest developments in the Lebanon and before Mr. Begin's announcement of his intention to resign. I suggest you discuss points in the following order:

(a) Lebanon

Latest situation?
Threat to MNF?

(b) Arab/Israel

Effect of Begin's departure?
Should we/the Ten fill the gap caused by the US elections (para 11 of paper)?

/ Should

Should we do more to support the Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza (para 13)?

(c) The Gulf

A more active policy (para 14)?

(d) Trade and financial matters

Does our attitude on political questions affect the level of our trade (para 15)?

A. J. C.

6 September 1983

MEETING WITH ACADEMIC EXPERTS

The Prime Minister

Mr. Michael Kaser

Mr. A.H. Brown

Professor A. Nove

The Reverend Michael Bourdeaux

Dr. Alex Pravda

Mr. C.N. Donnelly

Mr. G. Schopflin

Dr. Ronald Amman

Lord Thomas of Swynnerton

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP

Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, MP

Sir Antony Acland

Sir Julian Bullard

Mr. J.M. Mackintosh

Sir Anthony Parsons

Mr. Robin Butler

Mr. John Coles

MEETING OF MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS

Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, MP

Sir Antony Acland

Sir Julian Bullard

Mr. Bryan Cartledge

Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP

Sir Clive Whitmore

Field Marshal Sir Edwim Bramall

Mr. John Blelloch

Sir Robert Armstrong

Mr. David Goodall

Mr. J.M. Mackintosh

Sir Anthony Parsons

Mr. Robin Butler

Mr. John Coles