

PRIME MINISTER

CHEQUERS: FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGY DISCUSSION

I should be grateful for your decision on whether or not we should seek to give the conclusions of the Chequers discussions some official status.

I understand that the economic policy discussions were of a different character and that the same problem does not arise in their case. As regards the foreign policy field, the problem is limited to the field of East/West relations. In this case, you have in effect, as a result of the discussions, laid down a policy on the very important area of East/West relations and that policy contains some new elements. It might seem odd if OD did not take cognisance of this change.

You may feel that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should be asked to produce a paper for OD which would not refer specifically to the Chequers discussions but begin:

"Following our talk the other day, you asked me to set out the considerations which should guide our policy on East/West relations in the next few years".

The rest of the paper would be based on my account of the Chequers discussions which is attached, but which I have not yet circulated.

Agree that we should proceed in this way?

12 September 1983

*Yes - it is a brilliant summary
It is early to come to OD having in mind
the Korean A.S.C. However there are some
points which should be followed up.
But agree that a paper should be
prepared for OD in day (with
outline, not*