

PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

You have a bilateral with the Foreign Secretary tomorrow immediately after your meeting with Mr. Takeshita.

The points which he would like to cover are:

- European Community: British Commissioner

He has spoken to Leon Brittan, and hopes to have a reaction by tomorrow. Meanwhile, I should report that Michael Butler has been in touch with me, having read in the Press that he might be a candidate. He is certainly not volunteering, and is too well placed at present really to want to go, although I would not exclude that he would do so if called upon in the national interest. His own very strong view is that you should appoint Robin Renwick who could serve for up to eight or ten years, and do a consistent and first-rate job for the UK. I said that I would report this.

- Angola-Namibia Conference

The Foreign Secretary will bring you up to date with this Conference and likely results. He will be seeing all four delegations later in the week.

- Economic Summit

He wants to raise the question of possible themes for informal discussion at the Summit. You saw a note by Nigel Wicks over the weekend. You suggested that we might take an initiative on strengthening the GATT and making it more effective. You favoured focussing informal discussion on how to contain the escalating costs of provision of social services or on greater cooperation over terrorism and hijacks.

- The Gulf

He wants to discuss the implications of the American decisions to extend opportunity assistance to neutral-flag

ships, and to alter their rules of engagement to allow action against Iranian ships suspected of mine laying. I do not see that we need object to the first, although we are unlikely to be able to follow suit because we simply do not have sufficient ships. We shall need the views of the Chiefs of Staff on whether the second point requires us to look at the rules of engagement again.

- Poland

There are evident risks in the present situation in Poland and the simmering troubles elsewhere in Eastern Europe. One has the feeling we are entering a rather dangerous period.

CDP

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3 May, 1988.

JD3BJH