

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

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You have a bilateral with the Foreign Secretary tomorrow afternoon. The subjects which he wishes to raise are:

Conservative Party representation at the Democratic National Convention

Apparently a large number of Government MPs are attending the Republican Convention but virtually none the Democratic Convention. This has already been noticed and become the subject of comment. He is likely to want to enlist your support for persuading some senior Government backbenchers to go to the Democratic Convention.

Shooting down of Iranian aircraft in the Gulf

He wants to bring you up to date on action in the UN Security Council. You will recall President Reagan sent you a message about this.

South Africa

I have briefed him of your conversation with Chancellor Kohl. He wants to discuss the question of a possible emissary or joint message from you and Kohl to President Botha.

Soviet prisoners in Afghanistan

He wants to discuss with you Gorbachev's request for help in securing the release of Soviet prisoners of war. His inclination like yours is to try to help.

Gorbachev in Warsaw

Gorbachev's proposals for a European summit on conventional arms control seems to have fallen fairly flat, which is all to the good.

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Colonel North's trial

The Americans are planning to release certain documents in which Colonel North recommends that attempts be made to persuade the United Kingdom to supply Blowpipe to the Contras.

In any public comment we should stick firmly to the line that we did not agree to the supply of Blowpipe and it was not supplied.

Argentine Falklands

Secretary Shultz is going to Argentina in early August and has asked if he can convey some sort of message from us. The Foreign Secretary wants to tell you the way his mind is moving.

C.D.P.

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(C. D. POWELL)

12 July 1988