

130

PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

You have a bilateral with the Foreign Secretary tomorrow afternoon. The points which are likely to come up are:

Gorbachev's Speech

Like you, the Foreign Secretary sees it as a very significant speech. As you told the Soviet Ambassador, it makes it all the more important that you should see Gorbachev as soon as possible to discuss it. We cannot yet start pressing the Russians on dates for the visit, but might do so in a week's time. Meanwhile, I have asked the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to produce an annotated version of the speech bringing out the main new points: and, in slightly slower time, to stress the evolution of Gorbachev's politico-military thinking over the last three years through his speeches.

Your Visit to Africa

The Foreign Secretary wants to discuss your proposed visit to Africa in early April. You have agreed the itinerary Morocco, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Malawi. He is likely to suggest that you add Mozambique on the grounds that it would be particularly news-worthy. I continue to have reservations about this on security, health and general political grounds. It is still basically a pro-communist regime, and we should give priority to our friends. Anyway, it is not such a novelty to go there: Chancellor Kohl, Princess Anne and the Foreign Secretary himself have all been recent visitors. We also need to keep open the possibility of your meeting President Botha in the area (but outside South Africa itself) in the event that he does not go to New York to sign the Agreement on Cuban Troop Withdrawal.

PLO

He wants to discuss possible future contacts with the PLO, in the light of Arafat's speech to the United Nations in Geneva tomorrow. The indications are that Arafat will make the three points we have long demanded, though how far they will be balanced by other comments remains to be seen.

I think he has seen him before

It is likely that President Mitterrand will agree to see Arafat once the speech has been made. There will be pressure for you to see him too. I hope you will not agree to this: at the most it should be the Foreign Secretary. Arafat cannot erase twenty years of support for and involvement in terrorism with one, probably ambivalent speech. Moreover, you will want to remind the Foreign Secretary of the need to have consideration all the time for the other side of the coin: being nice to the PLO will not get us far if we simultaneously lose Israel. We should also therefore be thinking of what initiatives we might take to keep alongside the Israelis, and convince them of the need to match the PLO's footwork. Has the time come when we should be considering inviting Shamir here for a talk? If not, it might come quite soon.

Modernisation of NATO'S SNF

The Foreign Secretary may want to say something about the way ahead on modernisation decisions and a possible NATO Summit, in the light of last week's NATO Ministerial Meeting. I think you will find he favours a softly-softly approach. Is this necessarily right? We only got the Germans over the finishing line on the INF decision by constant pressure and hounding. The same may be necessary this time.

C.D.P?
CDP12 December, 1988.