

PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

You have a bilateral with the Foreign Secretary tomorrow afternoon. He has been in Paris today for a WEU meeting and goes to Bonn on Wednesday to see Genscher. The French are organising a separate dinner for European Community Foreign Ministers in Paris on Saturday, to which he will also go (but will be travelling separately from you).

The two main subjects which he wants to cover are:

- Developments in East Germany. The tide of opinion has begun to swing towards a more prudent assessment of the way ahead. At the same time the main Governments concerned - notably the United States and Germany - have come to share your prompt recognition of the dangers of this whole situation for Gorbachev and the need to reassure him. There is clearly a strong case for an early message from you to Gorbachev, replying to his. I think we ought to aim to have that off by Wednesday evening at the latest. The Americans have asked for Allied consultation on the terms of this, and I see advantage in your being able to speak on behalf of all four Allies in your reply. I am not so sure whether you need send a written message to President Bush at this stage. An alternative would be to telephone him before you go off to Paris for Mitterrand's dinner on Saturday night, so that you underline your readiness to consult with the Americans about what Europe may do. That would also be an opportunity to dissuade him from airing publicly the issue of self-determination for the Baltic Republics.
- Vietnamese Boat People. The Foreign Secretary wants to continue his earlier discussion with you on this subject and in particular the timing of any action to start non-voluntary repatriation. He will, I think, suggest that you should say to President Bush at Camp David that the only circumstances in which we would not go ahead with non-

voluntary repatriation would be if the Americans were prepared to take a very substantial number of the 40,000 non-refugees. It is most unlikely that they will agree. Were they to do so, it seems to me we could then switch to a policy of automatic repatriation of everyone arriving in Hong Kong at the moment of their arrival.

The Foreign Secretary may also wish to mention to you his talk with Delors in Brussels and the implications for the European Council in Strasbourg. You are to see Delors on 1 December.

It is also just possible that we shall have advance notice of the Namibia election results by tomorrow evening, in which case you might want to consider with the Foreign Secretary the terms of any public statement.

e.v.t.

C. D. POWELL

13 November 1989

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