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PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

You have a bilateral with the Foreign Secretary tomorrow afternoon. He will be coming straight from the airport, on his return from Poland. The main subjects he will wish to discuss are:

- Poland

I have put some telegrams in your box which summarise the main content of his meetings there. The Poles are obviously very appreciative of all your help and support, but continue to agitate about their security concerns, and in particular about their involvement in the Two plus Four discussions.

- Soviet Union

The jeering at Gorbachev at the May Day parade yesterday is a disturbing development and must add to the uncertainties in the Soviet Union: either increasing the conviction of the Army, KGB and like-minded people that Gorbachev has allowed reform to go too far and must be removed: or convincing him that he must now stop or even reverse some of his policies. We are in for a fraught period in the run-up to your visit and the US/Soviet Summit.

- European Community

The Foreign Secretary will want to discuss the way ahead after Dublin. It is clearly important that we should table proposals of our own on political union as soon as possible, and this will require an early meeting of O(D) to approve a paper. The very broad consensus in the House this afternoon considerably strengthens our hand in the discussions which lie ahead. At the same time, we need to consider when to

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put forward our proposals on EMU. In my view we ought to have them on the table at least by the time of the European Council at the end of June.

- Middle East

The Foreign Secretary is intending to visit Egypt and Jordan fairly soon. One or two members of the Conservative Friends of Israel have approached me to express their misgivings about reports that he is intending to meet one or more senior PLO figures while he is there. The Foreign Office tell me no decision has been reached. But the signs seem to me to point towards an intention to have a meeting but to be cautious about broaching the subject with you for fear of a veto. You may like to pre-empt this by raising it yourself tomorrow and asking the Foreign Secretary's intentions. I think William Waldegrave is driving this one quite hard.

- NATO Summit

We have proposed 20/21 June in London (agreed with the Americans) and hope to get reactions by the end of the week. I have spoken to the Canadians, who are quite relaxed.

- Soviet Biological Warfare Programme

You have sent a message to the President and want the Foreign Secretary to speak to Baker on 3 May.

C.D.P.
C. D. POWELL

1 May 1990

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