

PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

You have a bilateral with the Foreign Secretary tomorrow afternoon. I understand there are three subjects he wants to raise:

- Delors. He thinks that the question of Delors' reappointment may come up in Dublin. I imagine he will say that we have no option but to support him. If for any reason Delors were not to be re-appointed, his successor could only come from within the existing Commission and would in practice be Bangemann, who might be worse. We do not want to identify ourselves as the leading opponent of Delors' reappointment and then fail to block him: that would ensure his lack of co-operation for the next two years. On the other hand I am not sure that we need to tell Delors so far in advance that he is safe. Perhaps it could be delayed until the autumn.

- South Africa. The Foreign Secretary will want to report to you on discussions on South Africa among Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg today, and discuss how to handle it at the European Council. I gather he made some progress this afternoon on getting the others to contemplate easing sanctions, but the Irish are adamantly against. We must have some positive signal from Dublin for de Klerk. You will want to give the Foreign Secretary your impressions from your talk with Mandela (he has seen my note of it).

- NATO Summit. He will want to talk about the Declaration to be issued at the NATO Summit. We agree with the Americans that it should be short, sharp and readable. But some of their ideas, which you saw



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today, are unnecessarily adventurous and put the packaging before the content. I have asked the Foreign Office to convey your misgivings to Washington. The President is due to consider the matter tomorrow.

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

18 June 1990

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