

PRIME MINISTER

Foreign Affairs Strategy Sessions: Chequers

The arrangements for the meeting with academic experts are going ahead. We are having certain problems owing to university holidays but the aim is to get to you a set of short papers by the academics on East/West Relations to take with you to Scotland at the end of August.

As you know, I have also commissioned a number of papers from the FCO to form the basis for our policy discussion on East/West Relations and other subjects. I attach first drafts of these. They will be updated and made available to you to take to Scotland.

Please do not bother to read these in full now. But I should just like to be sure that you are broadly content with the papers as a basis for discussion.

The first (Flag A) is a general paper on foreign policy. I believe that a brief discussion of this will be an essential preliminary to our discussion of East/West Relations - because what we can do about the latter must to some extent depend on the whole range of our objectives and commitments. I think it is a good clear statement of the problems and priorities ahead.

The second is a substantial paper on East/West Relations. It consists of a summary of conclusions (Flag B), a lengthy analysis and an action programme (Flag C). I think this is a good basis for a discussion leading to a practical plan of action.

The other papers are:

- (Flag D).
- (a) Arms Control and Disarmament/ This will need further work before September, especially on the relationship of our strategic deterrent to future arms talks.

/(b) The Middle East.

- (b) The Middle East (Flag E). The paper distinguishes between a minimum action programme to avoid damaging our interests and a greater level of activity aimed at filling the gap during the US election period.

- (c) The European Community (Flag F) - a survey of all our main activities ending with a suggested statement of objectives for the next five years.

I know that a lot of work has been done on these papers and that the Foreign Secretary has taken much trouble with them himself.

May I say that you are grateful for the work done, that you think these papers will provide a useful basis for discussion and that you would like them to be updated and made available by the end of August?

A.S.C.

26 July, 1983