

Top Copy on Foreign Policy, East/West Relations, H3

PRIME MINISTER

CHEQUERS: FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGY DISCUSSION

I should be grateful for your decision on whether or not we should seek to give the conclusions of the Chequers discussions some official status.

I understand that the economic policy discussions were of a different character and that the same problem does not arise in their case. As regards the foreign policy field, the problem is limited to the field of East/West relations. In this case, you have in effect, as a result of the discussions, laid down a policy on the very important area of East/West relations and that policy contains some new elements. It might seem odd if OD did not take cognisance of this change.

You may feel that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should be asked to produce a paper for OD which would not refer specifically to the Chequers discussions but begin:

"Following our talk the other day, you asked me to set out the considerations which should guide our policy on East/West relations in the next few years".

The rest of the paper would be based on my account of the Chequers discussions which is attached, but which I have not yet circulated.

Agree that we should proceed in this way?

Yes - it is a brilliant summary
It is early to come to OD having in mind the Korean A.S.C.
However there are some points which should be followed up.
But agree that a paper should be prepared for OD in early Oct. not

12 September 1983



10 DOWNING STREET

CO

From the Private Secretary

13 September 1983

Dear Brian,

Chequers : Discussions of foreign and defence policy

I am sending you separately today letters recording the conclusions of the Chequers discussions of 8 and 9 September on (a) East/West relations (b) Arms Control and Disarmament (c) the Middle East.

I should be grateful if the following points on the handling of these letters could be carefully noted.

The fact, nature and outcome of the Chequers discussions should continue to be closely protected. In general, we continue to wish to avoid wider knowledge of these matters.

Nevertheless, it will be necessary to bring the conclusions of the meetings to the attention of those concerned with the execution of policy. The outcome of the discussion of the Middle East presents little difficulty and my letter on that matter may be brought to the attention of those who need to know. But if you judge it necessary to inform our representatives abroad I should be grateful if you could refer simply to "recent Ministerial discussion" rather than the Chequers meeting of 9 September.

As regards the meeting on arms control and disarmament the decisions taken were more in the nature of commissioning further work than new decisions on policy. They may be brought to the attention of those who need to know then subject to the above caveats.

The conclusions of the meeting on East/West relations are in a different category in that they relate to the formulation of a new policy. The Prime Minister would therefore be grateful if in due course the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would prepare a paper for circulation to OD setting out, on the basis of the Chequers conclusions, the considerations which should govern our approach to East/West relations in the next few years. She would like an opportunity to see a draft of the paper which she envisages being circulated not before late October.

/ I am

cc Master Set

2 Foreign Affairs: East/West

Relations

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cc 1700

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I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), Jonathan Spencer (Department of Trade & Industry), Alex Galloway (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

John Colles .

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.