

Ref. A084/2147

MR POWELL

Prime Minister

CDP
25/7Security of Small States

I understand that it is not true that the Ministry of Defence were not consulted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office when the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's memorandum on security of small states was being prepared. The Ministry of Defence were consulted at official level twice, and at that level expressed agreement with the paper.

2. Nor is it true that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were unaware of the work being done by the Chiefs of Staff. That work related to "out of NATO area" commitments and activities, notably in the Gulf and the Caribbean. It covered some but by no means all of the ground covered in the memorandum on security of small states; and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office believed that there was nothing in the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's memorandum which was inconsistent with the work done or the conclusions reached by the Chiefs of Staff.

3. None of this makes the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's memorandum a good or adequate paper. But the charge that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office failed to consult the Ministry of Defence seems to be unfounded; if there was failure of consultation, it appears that the division of the Ministry of Defence which was consulted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not consult either the Chiefs of Staff organisation or the Secretary of State.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

25 July 1984

VSC

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Security of Small States

The Prime Minister has noted and exclaimed upon your minute of 25 July reporting that the Ministry of Defence were consulted at official level about the FCO paper on this subject.

BF/ The Prime Minister remains of the view that further work is needed to prepare a more comprehensive paper. It would be helpful if this could be available before the proposed seminar on 1 October, but better if further OD discussion of it could be postponed until after the seminar.

C.D. POWELL

26 July 1984