

PRIME MINISTER

Foreign Affairs/Defence Seminar at Chequers

Charles Powell, David Barclay and myself have been looking at the diary for a suitable date for the above.

The Autumn is very crowded and we hope that you will agree that the two subjects can take place during one day, Content? *Yes*

If you agree we all feel that the best day would be on Monday 1 October, (I will postpone the Carlton Club lunch).

You return from your overseas trip on Thursday 27 September. I am keeping Friday 28th free for you to clear boxes, and the weekend - 29/30 completely free to relax. You would then stay on overnight on Sunday 30 September. The two Seminars will take place on Monday 1st. We are looking at the possibility of a visit to Liverpool on Tuesday 2nd; Wednesday 3rd is free for the Party Conference speech; Thursday 4th a possible Cabinet and Friday 5th and that weekend all free for the Party Conference speech.

Content to have above Seminar at Chequers on Monday 1 October.

y
Yes not
CR

Caroline

29 June 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 July, 1984

Foreign Policy: NATO Strategy

Thank you for your letter of 25 June about the Prime Minister's intention to hold a Seminar on NATO Strategy.

BH/1
The Prime Minister has now decided to hold the Seminar on Monday, 1 October at Chequers. Half a day will be devoted to the possible Conflict of Principles in foreign policy, the other half to NATO strategy.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

C. D. POWELL

Len Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 June 1984

Dear Charles,

Foreign Policy: NATO Strategy

Thank you for your letter of 19 June to Peter Ricketts about the Prime Minister's wish to hold a seminar on NATO strategy.

We have noted the subject matter that you think this seminar ought to try to cover. Work is in hand in the MOD and FCO to produce a discussion paper by the end of July (last September's strategy meeting on foreign affairs and defence suggests that a short discussion paper which focusses on the right questions is probably more use than the weighty collection of background papers commissioned last time). Among the subjects that you list is outer space: the Prime Minister will now have received the joint FCO/MOD paper forwarded to her on 19 June by Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Heseltine. A companion piece, comprising a situation report on President Reagan's strategic defence initiative, is now in preparation.

If the Prime Minister wishes to follow the pattern of two half-day seminars, there are certainly a number of worthwhile people who might participate from outside the Government. We will reflect further with MOD on this and let you have specific suggestions in due course.

On timing, it may be that late September would offer a better chance of raising a full turn-out from among non-Governmental participants than the first half of the month (because of the holiday period and the IISS annual conference to which many of them will go at Avignon 13-15 September). However, you will also wish to note that Sir Geoffrey Howe will be attending the UN General Assembly in New York from 24-28 September, and there is still a good chance that he may have to visit Peking and Hong Kong again during September.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (MOD).

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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For PO Strategy A2

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PRIME MINISTER

Seminar on NATO Strategy

You said last week that you would like to organise a seminar on NATO strategy which might be held at the same time as that on the possible Conflict of Principles in foreign policy. Before setting action in hand on this I would like to be sure I have properly understood how you envisage the seminar and what it should discuss. I attach a draft letter which tries to express it. Agree?

E.S.P.

Yes.

Richard Howard
would be one person
to attend - I am
not sure about other
historians & military
academics
not

19 June 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 June, 1984

FOREIGN POLICY: NATO STRATEGY

John Coles' letter to you of 1 June said that the Prime Minister intended to hold a seminar at Chequers in September on the broad question of a possible Conflict of Principles in foreign policy. You will have set preparatory work in hand.

The Prime Minister is now thinking in terms of a further seminar, at about the same time, on NATO strategy. The purpose would be to examine some of the points which were touched on in the recent Ministerial discussion (OD(84)7 meeting). The seminar would review the key issues of NATO's military strategy, and in particular flexible response, and consider whether the intellectual foundations of present policy remain valid. It would devote special attention to the significance of technological development for future military strategy, particularly as regards the use of space.

BF || It will be helpful if a short paper could be prepared jointly by the FCO and MOD on these issues by the end of July. The paper should pose questions as much as attempt to answer them. Its purpose will be to serve as a framework for discussion.

It would also be helpful if you could let me have suggestions both from within Whitehall and outside, for people who might be invited to attend the seminar.

One possibility is to hold the two seminars on the same day, devoting half a day to each.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

(C.D. Powell)

P. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 June 1984

cc: [handwritten initials]
CDP
13/6

Dear Charles,

Foreign Policy: Possible Conflict of Principles

John Coles wrote about this on 1 June. ^{with CDP}

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will be happy to provide a paper tackling the issues set out in your letter, and to suggest names of outside experts who might be consulted and invited to attend a seminar at Chequers in September.

We will let you have a paper and a list of possible experts before the end of July.

I am copying this letter to Hugh Taylor (Home Office).

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

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10 Downing Street

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Foreign Policy Act

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STRATEGY



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