

*D. P. Carole*

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PRIME MINISTER

NATO STRATEGY

You asked to see recent papers produced by the Chiefs of Staff. There are two.

UK STRATEGY WITHIN NATO

A A fairly conventional analysis. I suggest that you read paragraphs 4 to 37. These cover the basic assumptions, the threat, Soviet strengths and weaknesses, NATO weaknesses and measures to deal with them.

I should skip paragraphs 38 to 71 which deal with each of the regions - Atlantic, Northern, Central and Southern - in detail and look at paragraphs 73 to 87 which assess the relative importance of the areas and give priority to the Central Region.

I should skip paragraphs 88 to 101 and read the conclusions in paragraphs 102 to 111.

B There is also an annex on Flexible Response but it contains nothing new.

UK STRATEGY OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA

C There is then a rather racier paper on UK Strategy outside the NATO area.

Paragraphs 6 to 44 are a geographical survey:

Paragraphs 45 to 50 try to set priorities;

Paragraphs 52 to 60 deal with training, etc;

Paragraphs 61 to 62 contain the conclusions.

*CP*

1 August 1984