



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 September 1984

This is being circulated
to official participants in
the seminar only. It is
a good, clear piece
of work and should make
for a stimulating discussion.

Dear Charles,

CDP

Foreign Policy: Possible Conflict of Principles

13/9.

Thank you for your letter of 10 September. In your earlier letter of 2 August to Colin Budd you asked for a paper covering the points set out in his letter to you of 30 July and suggesting some guidelines for policy.

I now enclose such a paper. As you asked, it does not attempt to draw any hard and fast conclusions. The Foreign Secretary emphasises that it is intended only as a basis for the discussion at Chequers of the implications for British policy. It should in no sense be taken as constituting agreed policy recommendations, which could only follow after further consideration.

The Foreign Secretary suggests that the Prime Minister may wish to consider, as an outline agenda for the discussion by Ministers and officials on 1 October, inviting participants to test the guidelines for policy in the second half of the paper against three possible scenarios for American intervention in Nicaragua:

- (a) a limited operation, such as a rapid air strike, to neutralise elements in the Nicaraguan Armed Forces' armoury;
- (b) a general quarantine on Nicaragua designed to undermine the Sandinista regime and create disorder, thus providing a pretext for intervention: and
- (c) a full-scale invasion by ground forces intended to install a new regime in Managua.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Richard Mottram (MOD), Colin Farthing (Mr Stanley's office, MOD), Sir Antony Acland (FCO), Sir Clive Whitmore (MOD), Chief of Defence Staff, Sir Percy Cradock and Bryan Cartledge.

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 September 1984

Foreign Policy: Possible Conflict of Principles

Thank you for your letter of 13 September enclosing a further paper on this subject, suggesting some guidelines for policy.

The Prime Minister has read this with interest and agrees that it should be discussed by the official participants in the Seminar only, after dinner on 1 October.

I am sending copies of this letter to Richard Mottram (MOD), Colin Farthing (Mr. Stanley's Office, MOD), Sir Antony Acland (FCO), Sir Clive Whitmore (MOD), Chief of Defence Staff, Sir Percy Cradock and Bryan Cartledge.

Charles Powell

L.V. Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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A large, stylized handwritten signature, possibly 'SC', in the bottom right corner of the page.