

PRIME MINISTER

SEMINAR ON NATO STRATEGY

CHEQUERS, 1 OCTOBER

Restricted Session

There is no separate paper for this discussion though the Foreign Secretary's minute at Reference A raises some new points in paragraph 11 which might be discussed.

You will want to use the session with Ministers and officials to identify the implications of the morning's discussion for United Kingdom policy. You might invite the Defence Secretary to assess the implications for the United Kingdom armed services over the next decade: does the need to enhance the credibility of the flexible response strategy call for any adjustment in the balance of the United Kingdom defence expenditure, for example, in favour of the Royal Navy or Royal Air Force? What will be the likely impact on the United Kingdom of Lord Carrington's forthcoming review of scope for conventional force enhancement? What are the potential expenditure implications? What more should we do to assert our central role in the Alliance alongside France and Germany?

You could then ask the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to speak about the aspects of intra-Alliance relationships addressed in his minute to you. The single most cost-effective improvement to NATO's overall strategic posture would be the closer integration of France into the operational planning of the Alliance: what could the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany do to encourage this? What might be done to reduce unjustified American scepticism about the contribution of the European Allies, in order to minimise the possibility of United States troop

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withdrawals? The policies and public attitudes of maverick Alliance members such as Greece and Denmark tarnish the European image in Washington and may pose temptations to the Russians: are we too lenient with them? Would the Alliance be healthier without them? What more needs to be done to keep the support of public opinion for NATO's current strategy?

You will wish to conclude the discussion with Ministers and officials by drawing up a check list for follow-up action by the Departments concerned: the discussion may throw up a requirement for one or more papers for consideration by OD.

C.D.P.

28 September 1984

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SEMINAR ON NATO STRATEGY AT CHEQUERS  
ON MONDAY, 1 OCTOBER 1984'

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP  
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary

Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP  
Secretary of State for Defence

Rt. Hon. John Stanley, MP  
Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Sir Robert Armstrong  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Sir Clive Whitmore  
Permanent Under Secretary,  
Ministry of Defence

Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall  
Chief of Defence Staff

Sir Percy Cradock  
Foreign Affairs Adviser to the  
Prime Minister

Sir John Graham  
UK Representative on the  
North Atlantic Council

Mr. A.D.S. Goodall  
Deputy Under Secretary,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr. Bryan Cartledge  
Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Office

Mr. Charles Powell  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

Professor Lawrence Freedman  
Professor War Studies, Kings College  
London

Professor Sir Hermann Bondi  
Chairman, Natural Environment Research  
Council

Sir Arthur Hockaday  
Secretary and Director General,  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Dr. Robert O'Neill  
Director, International Institute for  
Strategic Studies

Admiral Sir James Eberle  
Director, Royal Institute of International  
Affairs

Professor Peter Nailor  
Professor of History, Chatham House,  
Royal Naval College, Greenwich

Sir Clive Rose  
Former UK Permanent Representative to  
NATO

Professor Laurence Martin  
Vice Chancellor, University of Newcastle  
upon Tyne

The Lord Cameron of Balhousie  
Principal, Kings College, London

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PRIME MINISTER

Foreign Policy Seminar at Chequers  
on 1 October

You have already read through the papers for the main seminars. You will want, however, to glance at the separate folders for the two Restricted Sessions with Ministers and officials only on NATO strategy and Conflict of Principles. In particular there is a new paper from the Foreign Secretary on some of the NATO issues.

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28 September 1984