



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

You ought to
be aware of the
attached report of a
speech by Francis Pym.

TJ

18/1

PYM URGED REAGAN-ANDROPOV SUMMIT

MR FRANCIS PYM DISCLOSED IN LONDON TONIGHT THAT AS BRITAIN'S FOREIGN SECRETARY HE HAD UNSUCCESSFULLY URGED A SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT REAGAN AND SOVIET LEADER YURI ANDROPOV AFTER THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT BREZHNEV AS A MEANS OF EASING EAST-WEST TENSION.

MR PYM, WHO WAS SACKED BY MRS THATCHER AFTER THE JUNE ELECTION, DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY HIS INITIATIVE - WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A LOST OPPORTUNITY - DID NOT MATERIALISE.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING IN LONDON, MR PYM SAID EAST-WEST RELATIONS WERE NOW GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF GREAT STRAIN.

HE SAID: "I FEEL THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN AND PRESIDENT ANDROPOV HAVE BEEN TALKING PAST EACH OTHER. THE SLANGING MATCH HAS HELPED NO ONE AND FRIGHTENED MANY.

"THE RHETORIC HAS BEEN WRONG, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN WELCOME SIGNS OF CHANGE RECENTLY."

HE SAID THE RESULT HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS WITH ARMS CONTROL TALKS AND AN ESCALATION OF THE ARMS RACE.

MR PYM SAID: "AN OPPORTUNITY TO ALTER THIS UNWELCOME DEVELOPMENT WAS MISSED WHEN BREZHNEV DIED.

AS SOON AS MR ANDROPOV SUCCEEDED MR BREZHNEV, I URGED UPON THE USA AN IMMEDIATE SUMMIT.

"THE PURPOSE WAS NOT TO MAKE AN AGREEMENT - THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE - BUT TO ENABLE THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET AND TO BE SEEN TO MEET.

"THEY COULD HAVE DECIDED TO MEET AGAIN IN A YEAR OR TWO IN THE COURSE OF WHICH THEY WOULD WORK TOWARDS AN AGREEMENT.

THAT OPPORTUNITY WAS LOST AND IT IS NOT EASY TO SEE TODAY WHEN THE NEXT WILL OCCUR, SAID MR PYM.

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