



27 December 1984

Dear Tim,

Also must know of Middle East discussion with President re.
Prime Minister

The Prime Minister's Visit to Washington: 21-22 December

There is naturally much interest among our Community Partners and other allies and close friendly governments in the Prime Minister's meetings with President Reagan and Vice-President Bush. Sir Oliver Wright has given a short briefing to Community Ambassadors in Washington and to the Spanish and Portuguese Ambassadors; and has given all of them copies of the speaking note on SDI which the Prime Minister used at her press conference at Andrews Air Force Base on 22 December.

In response to requests for briefings, we would propose to say to the Canadians, the Australians, the New Zealanders, non-Community members of NATO and the Japanese that, as expected, a large part of the Prime Minister's discussion was taken up with arms control, particularly the strategic defence initiative. We would make available to those countries the text of the SDI public statement. We would go no further than this statement in substance, but would draw on material in the transcript of the Prime Minister's press conference, should further elucidation of detail prove necessary.

On East/West relations we would say that the Prime Minister gave President Reagan a full account of her meeting with Mr Gorbachev and also told him about her visit to China. We would say that the Prime Minister and the President had also exchanged views briefly on a number of regional subjects including the Middle East, Central America and the Ethiopian situation. Both were taking a close interest in the problems of the famine.

On other issues we would say:

~~the President and the Prime Minister had discussed Ireland, on which the Prime Minister had reassured the President that the British and Irish Governments were in step; they had also exchanged views on the Laker Airline question;~~

briefed the

President (1) on other dimensions between the two heads of state and President that further talks would take place in the early months of 1985

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early months of 1985



- (ii) the Prime Minister had had a shorter meeting with with Mr Bush over breakfast at which she had, among other things, told him about her visit to China in which he was particularly interested.

I would be grateful for confirmation that you would be content for us to brief the countries mentioned above on the lines indicated.

Yr. serv,
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Tim Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 December 1984

Thank you for your letter of 27 December about briefing following the Prime Minister's visit to Washington. As you know, the Prime Minister was content with most of these proposals. On Ireland, however, she would be grateful if the briefing could take the form of the following:

"The Prime Minister has briefed the President on discussions between herself and the Taoiseach and reassured the President that further talks would take place in the early months of 1985".

No doubt you will take this into account.

Timothy Flesher

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

The office would be grateful to know if you agree the last paragraph of this letter.

Vanessa

Vanessa

27 December 1984

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10 DOWNING STREET

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PRIME MINISTER

It seems from the attached that your briefing on Laker was not deficient and that Ambassador Price was wrong in saying that Article 12.4 of Bermuda 2 referred specifically to the anti-trust laws.

X ||| I have asked for advice on whether we should take advantage of his partial withdrawal to send back a statement of our case.

FR.R.B.

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re: US Ambr to FERA 24/12/84

28 December 1984