

Now OVERTAKEN

CDN

- Perhaps we could discuss this. What you say will be very influential in determining the general Western reaction.
1. ~~MR POWELL~~
 2. ~~PRIME MINISTER~~
- C.D.P. b/xi

NATO BRUSSELS - REAGAN DE-BRIEFING

You should be aware that virtually the entire world - or so it seems - wants to interview you after the Reagan de-briefing in Brussels on November 21.

You need to think very carefully your stance, and there is no need at this stage to take a decision.

But what is clear is that your voice will count for more than any other after the de-briefing. There will be faint hearts who will need to be rallied and there will be loyal and true friends who may well equivocate, especially if President Reagan has not covered himself with glory.

Your voice will be very important after this de-briefing, and we should together consider the kind of media programme, given this is your sole engagement on November 21, you should undertake.

Would you like me to make recommendations?

BERNARD INGHAM
4 November 1985



cc: B1
R2

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 November 1985

Dear Len,

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S BRIEFING OF NATO

We need to decide whether the Prime Minister should give a press conference and/or television interviews immediately after President Reagan's briefing of Alliance leaders in Brussels on 21 November on the outcome of his meeting with Mr. Gorbachev. But before taking any firm position on this, we need to know how both Lord Carrington and the Americans intend to handle the press and what they would find helpful from us. For instance, is it the intention that Lord Carrington himself should speak to the press immediately after the briefing? Is the working assumption that most other Heads of Government will brief their national press? Or are the Americans likely to seek some degree of restraint at least until after the President has briefed Congress?

BT

It would be helpful if you could establish Lord Carrington's and the US Administration's views on these points as soon as possible. Subject to their views, my own impression is that it would be helpful from the American and Alliance point of view for the Prime Minister to speak to the press in Brussels. Her voice is likely to be the most authoritative of the Allied leaders present in establishing an Alliance line on the outcome of the Summit.

Yours sincerely,
Charles Powell
(Charles Powell)

Len Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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