

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH SHEVARDNADZE

You have one and a half hours for this meeting. But that's only 45 minutes with interpretation. You will have to be selective in what you try to cover. The main issues for you to raise are:

i) Arms Control. You are convinced that President Reagan wants significant arms control agreements and is taking the Soviet proposals in Geneva very seriously. The President is far more likely than any likely successor to get arms control agreements through the Senate. The Soviet Union should therefore aim for an early Summit, paving the way for substantial agreements on arms control in 1987.

We should like to see early progress on Chemical weapons - on which a new UK initiative on challenge inspection is to be tabled tomorrow - and on INF. But if the Russians are serious on INF, they must drop their attempts to constrain modernisation of the British deterrent. We shall not accept disarmament by progressive obsolescence. The Alliance is absolutely firm on this.

You welcome Soviet readiness to discuss ABM Treaty issues, which may provide a way forward. But the Soviet Union should be under no illusion about being able to stop permissible research on SDI by the United States. We are disappointed by recent Soviet proposals on START, which show less interest in really deep reductions.

ii) Human Rights. You will want to stress the depth of concern here about this issue, and the benefits for wider relations which would result from better compliance with human rights' commitments. The current level of Jewish emigration is very disappointing. Particular cases to mention (and which are most frequently raised with you) are:

- Ida Nudel (The symbol of Jewish refuseniks. She is in internal exile for demonstrating in support of her right to leave).
- Dr. Sakharov. (At the least he should be allowed to return to Moscow).
- Irina Ratushinskaya. (A Ukrainian poetess who is gravely ill. Much parliamentary interest).

iii) Falkland Fisheries. The Russians are negotiating a fisheries agreement with Argentina. You will want to let him know very firmly that we expect the Russians not to act in a way prejudicial to our interests - i.e. that any agreement will not purport to deal with waters which the Falklands are entitled to claim.

iv) Afghanistan. Difficult to envisage significant improvement in East/West relations without Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. Wishes of Afghan people must be respected.

v) Middle East. We are not opposed in principle to an international conference or preparatory meeting of UN Security Council members as recently proposed again by the Russians, but don't see it as very practicable at this stage. Meanwhile you hope that the Russians will encourage countries like Syria, Libya and North Korea not to go on supplying arms to Iran.

vi) Chernobyl. You could welcome Gorbachev's proposals for co-operation on nuclear safety.

vii) Terrorism. You might take him to task on Soviet support for Libya. And sound him out on whether the Soviet Union is interested in bilateral expert talks on problems of international terrorism.

viii) Your possible visit. Depending on how the talk goes, and on whether he raises the subject, you may want to say that

you look forward to an opportunity to continue your discussions with Mr. Gorbachev in due course.

C.D.P.

C.D. POWELL
14 July 1986

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