

Jill

PRIME MINISTER

## SEMINAR ON THE SOVIET UNION

Participants have been asked to arrive between 9.30-9.45, so that the meeting can start punctually at 1000. I suggest that you go straight through to lunch without a coffee break, to make maximum use of the time available, and continue discussion over lunch. The academic participants are due to leave between 1430 and 1500. Officials will then continue for as long as you judge necessary.

You have read most of the papers in the attached folder as well as Professor Bailer's book. You will want to have by you the list of questions and the agenda which has been circulated in advance.

Professor Bailer has volunteered to make an introductory statement of 10/15 minutes. Although you will want to avoid long statements from all participants, it might be useful to make an exception for him as the only foreign participation.

In your introductory remarks, you will want to:

- thank Mr. Peter Frank who produced a paper especially for the seminar.
- thank also other participants who have provided copies of their articles and writing.
- remind participants that the meeting is held under Chatham House Rules, nothing said should be attributed to the meeting or to any of its participants.
- stress that the main purpose of the seminar is to try to reach a view of current developments in the Soviet Union and where they are likely to lead. This judgement will be crucial to how you handle your talks with Gorbachev

and to setting the objectives for your visit. It is not the purpose of the meeting to get into details of what you should say in Moscow on individual issues such as arms control. That is for a later stage.

### Restricted Session

At the restricted afternoon session with the Foreign Secretary and officials you will want to consider the conclusions about the future direction of the Soviet Union which can be drawn from the morning session, and what these imply for the handling of your visit. You will want to cover such points as:

- how should you respond both privately and publicly to the reforms which are being introduced in the Soviet Union?
- what response should we give to the Soviet insistence that the visit should be given 'political' content?
- how can we prevent the visit becoming focussed too exclusively on arms control - and above all SDI - issues, where the prospects for progress are rather slim?
- what real scope is there for achieving results from the visit which can be presented as a real step forward in East/West relations?
- what work do you want the FCO to do over the next month to prepare the substance of your visit? Should we be looking to an OD discussion?

CDP

26 February, 1987.

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