

TPM FILE
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PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO TURKEY: INTERVIEW WITH BBC WORLD SERVICE

You are giving the BBC World Service an interview on Monday. It is primarily about your visit to Turkey. But it may range more widely.

I attach:

- the note prepared for your interview with Turkish TV;
- a background note by the FCO.

The BBC - being the BBC - are quite likely to ask about human rights in Turkey. Undoubtedly Turkish behaviour is far from perfect, particularly their treatment of the Kurdish population. Equally they still have a difficult terrorist problem. If you are asked about it, I should say:

- there has been a very big improvement;
- Turkey's signature of various UN and Council of Europe Conventions on torture is an important step forward;
- where allegations of abuses are made, you understand that they are fully investigated;
- (if pressed on specific cases) you are confident that people now get a fair hearing under Turkish law.

On wider issues, points you might make are:

Afghanistan

- you welcome the Soviet intention to leave Afghanistan. But they should not now start to haggle and impose conditions. If others are to stop giving aid to the

Afghan resistance, then of course the Russians must stop giving military aid to the regime. There has to be symmetry.

Iran-Iraq

- the use of chemical weapons is contrary to the 1925 Geneva Protocol on chemical warfare and therefore illegal and we condemn their use very strongly indeed. The horrifying effects have been seen by everyone on TV. We are one of those pressing hardest for a complete ban on the manufacture and retention of chemical weapons and destroyed all our own stocks in the 1950s.

Arab-Israel

- we support Secretary Shultz's efforts which provide an opportunity to make progress. It is encouraging that no-one has rejected his plan, although there is no point in minimising the extent of the difficulties. There are three fundamental points: an international conference as a framework for negotiations: a settlement on the basis of Resolution 242, which means land for peace: and acceptance of Israel's right to live in peace within secure borders.

US/Soviet Summit

- you very much agree with President Reagan that you should never negotiate against a deadline, particularly on something as crucial as arms control. We support the aim of a START agreement, but it must be the right one; and that means getting all the details of verification and so on right. A Summit can be useful even if there is no specific agreement to sign. We are looking forward to President Reagan's visit to London straight after it.

(C.D. POWELL)

25 March 1988

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