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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 September 1988

Prime Minister

I think we you probably
should do this. Agree?

Dear Charles,

COP 12/9.

Yes

CSCE: Information Forum

Prop

Following your letter of 28 March, we agreed to revert to the question of the Prime Minister opening the CSCE London Information Forum in April 1989 in the light of developments at the CSCE Vienna Follow-Up Meeting. Your office has recently been in touch to ask for an update.

We had hoped the Vienna meeting would end by 31 July with a balanced Concluding Document containing substantial new commitments on human rights and agreement on a series of follow-up activities, particularly in the military security and human rights fields. Although much progress was made towards the end of July, it was not possible to reach agreement on the more controversial human rights issues before the August recess, largely because of Romanian obstructionism. The meeting resumed on 29 August. Our CSCE Ambassador predicts that it could conclude in October, given a fair wind, and that we should achieve a high proportion of our original objectives, not least in the human rights and contacts field.

Decisions on follow-up activities were also postponed until after the recess. However, a mandate for the Information Forum, which has almost universal support in Vienna, has already been provisionally agreed. I enclose a copy, with apologies for the inescapable CSCE jargon. Agreement on the mandate for a three-stage Conference on the Human Dimension (CDH) is also close. Paris and Copenhagen are uncontested candidates for the first two stages, but the third venue remains open and the Russians, after previously seeming to lose interest, have now suggested again that their proposal for a Moscow Humanitarian Conference might dovetail in here. Other potential candidates are Dublin and Valletta. So far we have received little support from partners and allies for a veto of this Moscow Conference proposal, though the US and France are now showing signs that they would be prepared to join us. The Russian's new campaign for it may be a tactical ploy to enhance their negotiating leverage in the end-game. There is however no evidence that they would be prepared to block consensus on the CDH or the Information Forum in order to secure a Moscow Conference, and our Ambassador considers it unlikely that they would do so. Valletta may in the end be an acceptable compromise candidate

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Other follow-up activities are likely to include meetings on military security and economic, scientific, environmental and cultural cooperation.

Outside the military field, the CDH and the London Information Forum are likely to be the most significant inter-sessional events because of their relevance to recent developments in the East. The Forum will be a good opportunity to test the extent and limitations of "glasnost" and its practical application. In pursuance of their own interests the Russians have come some way in their handling of the media but their performance in other respects, compared with any Western country, is still in the Dark Ages. We expect Western delegations, including our own, to include non-governmental information and media experts, thereby helping to provoke a full and informed debate on circulation of and access to information and working conditions of journalists. Key UK objectives will be:

- to project Western views and values, not least through the information/media personalities participating
- in particular, and in the confident knowledge that we hold the stronger position, to hold up the UK as an example for the East to follow;
- to sustain the pressure for "balance" in the CSCE process, ie to ensure that growing activity in defence and arms control fields is matched by progress in human rights areas (freedom of expression, movement and information) where Eastern implementation still lags well behind commitments;
- to question the existence of barriers to freer flows of information imposed by the East despite propaganda about the so-called "Common European Home", eg their continued jamming of some Western radio stations (not of the BBC);
- to press for wider and less selective dissemination of Western information in the East, better contacts, (eg between journalists and sources), access (eg to archives), and more freedom to travel (eg to Armenia when there are troubles there);
- to encourage diversity and individual initiatives in this field, in the face of the existing conformity and State control in the East.

The presence of the international press corps should ensure good coverage at home and abroad both for the Forum itself and for Western objectives at it.

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The agenda will also encourage discussion of new developments in information technology, for example the impact of new production techniques and technologies such as satellite and cable TV, telecommunications and telephonic technology and computers. Here too the East lags far behind and continues to fear the political impact of the easy and instantaneous everyday flow of information in the West. In addition to the opportunity to put across the political message in this field, the Forum may (depending on the composition of visiting delegations) also offer commercial openings. We shall therefore be alerting the relevant UK companies to the potential for useful contacts.

In sum, the Foreign Secretary believes that the Forum will be a major event. It will be well-timed to take advantage of the potential new opportunities in the information field opened up by Mr Gorbachev's reforms and to try to shame the East into better performance. It fits in well to our East-West policy priorities. It will also be a showcase for Britain. He therefore very much hopes that the Prime Minister will agree to deliver the inaugural speech at the Forum on Tuesday 18 April, subject to a satisfactory final outcome of the Vienna meeting. This will help to give the event the impact we want.

We will consult you separately at a later date on the choice of a leader for the UK delegation to the Forum.

Yours ever,
L. Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

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SUN UNION

Human Rights

pt 2



OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES
OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION
IN EUROPE, HELD ON THE BASIS OF THE PROVISIONS
OF THE FINAL ACT RELATING TO THE FOLLOW-UP TO
THE CONFERENCE

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PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE DELEGATIONS OF AUSTRIA, CYPRUS,
FINLAND, LIECHTENSTEIN, MALTA, SAN MARINO, SWEDEN,
SWITZERLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA

DRAFT CONCLUDING DOCUMENT
OF THE VIENNA MEETING 1986 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
PARTICIPATING STATES OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY
AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE, HELD ON THE BASIS OF THE
PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT RELATING TO THE FOLLOW-UP
TO THE CONFERENCE

Addendum

ANNEX

AGENDA, ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK, TIME-TABLE AND
OTHER MODALITIES OF THE INFORMATION FORUM

I. AGENDA

1. Formal opening of the Information Forum. Address by a representative of the host country.
2. Opening statements by representatives of the participating States; contributions by UNESCO and by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
3. Discussion of current and possible future problems and issues concerning
 - the improvement of the circulation of, access to and exchange of information;
 - co-operation in the field of information;
 - the improvement of working conditions for journalists.

In dealing with these three main areas of the Final Act, the participants in the Information Forum, drawing on their professional experience, will review the present situation on the basis of the relevant CSCE provisions with the aim of indicating any necessary improvements or possible new developments in those fields. In so doing, they will

take into account the fields of oral information, printed information and filmed and broadcast information, as well as the aim, as laid down in the Final Act, to facilitate the freer and wider dissemination of information of all kinds, thus contributing to an ever wider knowledge and understanding of life in other participating States. Particular attention will also be paid to the latest achievements in the field of information gathering and transmission, including the prospects offered by new information and communication technology.

4. Closing statements by representatives of the participating States.
5. Formal closure of the Information Forum.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND OTHER MODALITIES

1. The Information Forum will open on ..., at 10 a.m. in It will close on
2. All plenary meetings will be open.
3. Agenda items 1, 2, 4 and 5 will be dealt with in the Plenary.
4. Agenda item 3 will be dealt with in three subsidiary working bodies, one on Printed Information (SWB A), one on Filmed, Broadcast and Oral Information (SWB B) and one on Communication (SWB C), in a structured and balanced way. Possible themes for discussion in the subsidiary working bodies are annexed hereto. Agenda item 3 will also be dealt with in the plenary sessions which are not devoted to agenda items 1, 2, 4 and 5.
5. The time-table of the Forum will be the following:
 - The period from ... to ... will be devoted to opening statements by representatives of those participating States which so desire, in the following order (to be decided by lot at the Vienna Follow-up Meeting), and the contributions by UNESCO and by ITU. The opening statements should, as a rule, not exceed 20 minutes per delegation.
 - Beginning on ... and ending on ..., the three subsidiary working bodies will meet concurrently. Agenda items 4 and 5 shall be dealt with on the last ... days of the Forum.

6. Participants may circulate written contributions on the subjects for consideration in one or more of the working languages of the CSCE prior to the Forum through the Executive Secretary to all other participating States in order to allow a thorough preparation of the relevant discussions.
7. If the Forum does not reach any agreed conclusions, proposals and projects submitted to the Forum will be forwarded to the next follow-up meeting by the government of the host country.
8. Meetings of the Plenary and of the subsidiary working bodies will be held according to the attached work programme.
9. At the opening and closing plenary sessions, the Chair will be taken by a representative of the host country. After the opening session, the Chair will be taken in daily rotation, in French alphabetical order, starting with a representative of ... (to be decided by lot at the Vienna Follow-up Meeting).
10. The Chair at the opening sessions of the subsidiary working bodies will be taken by a representative of the host country. Selection of the next Chairmen of each subsidiary working body will be by lot. The Chair will then be taken in daily rotation, in French alphabetical order.
11. In conformity with paragraph 74 of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations, the Government of ... will designate an Executive Secretary. This designation will be subject to approval by the participating States.
12. The other rules of procedure, the working methods and the scale of distribution of the expenses of the CSCE will, mutatis mutandis, be applied to the Forum.

INDICATIVE LIST OF THEMES FOR DISCUSSION IN THE
SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES

SWB A: Printed Information with particular reference to

- Distribution of periodicals and other publications both commercially published and official, questions relating to the import of publications.
- Access to periodicals and other publications, e.g. in reading rooms and cultural information centres.
- Questions relating to printing and publishing including access to technical means.
- Contacts and exchanges between newspapers and periodicals, exchange of newspaper subscriptions.

SWB B: Filmed, Broadcast and Oral Information with particular reference to

- Access to new means of communication including satellite and other cross-frontier broadcasting.
- Contacts and exchanges between broadcasting companies, e.g. telebridges, joint discussion or other programmes.
- Dissemination and use of recorded audio-visual material.
- Participation in international discussion fora.
- Public lectures, exchanges of study visits between officials and non-governmental organizations.
- Press conferences.

SWB A and SWB B: Both SWBs will also deal with general considerations concerning the exercise of the profession of journalists, in particular the improvement of working conditions for journalists and media-personnel including

- The role of journalists in all its aspects.
- Facilitation of travel.
- Facilitation of access to sources.
- Respect for confidentiality of sources and materials.
- Visas/accreditation for journalists and radio/television crews.
- Possibilities for accredited correspondents to employ local nationals of their choice.

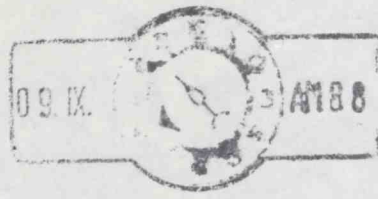
SWB C: Communication with particular reference to

- The impact on a national and international level of new production techniques and broadcasting technologies such as satellite and cable TV, telecommunications technology, use of computers, new telephonic communication.
- The legal, pedagogical, cultural and social implications of current and future developments in the field of communication.
- Role of journalists in the context of such developments.
- Questions of copyright of journalists, commercial aspects.

WORK PROGRAMME

... to ...

Working hours 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.		PL:	Plenary meeting			
		SWB A:	Printed Information			
		SWB B:	Filmed, Broadcast and Oral Information			
		SWB C:	Communication			
1st WEEK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Morning	/	PL	PL	PL	PL	
Afternoon		PL	PL	PL		
2nd WEEK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Morning		SWB A SWB B	SWB B SWB C	SWB A SWB C	PL	
Afternoon	SWB A SWB B	SWB A SWB C	SWB A SWB B	SWB A SWB B		
3rd WEEK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Morning		SWB B SWB C	SWB A SWB B	SWB A SWB C	PL	
Afternoon	SWB A SWB B	SWB A SWB C	SWB B SWB C	SWB A SWB B		
4th WEEK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Morning		SWB A SWB B	PL	PL	PL	
Afternoon	SWB B SWB C	SWB A SWB B	PL	PL		
5th WEEK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Morning	PL	/	/	/	/	
Afternoon	PL					



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TESSA

To note in diary.



C.F.
Could you let me
know as soon as
we have any more
details - eg. Where
where? Thanks.

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Tg.
14/9

From the Private Secretary

13 September 1988

CSCE: INFORMATION FORUM

Thank you for your letter of 8 September confirming the Foreign Secretary's recommendation that the Prime Minister should agree in principle to deliver the inaugural speech at the CSCE Information Forum on Tuesday 18 April 1989.

The Prime Minister accepts this advice.

Charles Powell

Bob Peirce Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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MR. POWELL

CSCE: INFORMATION FORUM

I have been going through the 1989 diary meeting agenda. The attached is included - do we need to ask for an update? Also it is worth noting that 18 April is a Tuesday, so presumably if the Prime Minister were to attend the Forum it would be after 5.00 pm that day.

TESSA GAISMAN

3 August 1988

by way of
class checking
22/8
A. Powell - covered -
with FCO - Kusech
1 doc'r following up
1/9/88
know where
it stands
CP

Lesson

Tessa G.
I have asked Sir G. Harris
of the Home Office to
come back to
me next week with an
update
Jen
- 19/8.

copy to FCO
28/3.

File



10 DOWNING STREET

Have noted
18 April in
1989 diary
Please let me
know any
further
developments!

Tessa

N.B.

BF
Some B/F as
before but
keep T.G.
informed
as CDP.

You asked about the Fco
update on the CSCE Forum.

The Fco have advised this
morning that the 1988 CSCE
Forum is still going on in
Vienna. It finishes in October
1988 and Fco will be in a position
to provide an update in
mid-October.

We have the papers on B/F for
mid-October.

Satisfied?

Fatima

6/9.