



Minister of State
for Defence Procurement

D/MIN(DP)/AC/

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 6621 (Direct Dialling)
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

November 1989

Jan Charles

Ric. Dennis
I think it's probably
better not. I fear he
will say something outrageous

I have been asked at short notice by RUSI whether I could participate in a discussion on Wednesday 22 November on "Western Policy Towards the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe". The event is a tri-partite one involving RUSI, Oxford University and Cambridge University.

e. ypsier
Tam
knj.
ad

I understand that other speakers are Professor Robert O'Neill of All Souls (chairing); Sir Julian Bullard (ex Ambassador to Bonn) on the historical development of Western European policy towards the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe; Herr Wegner (Minister at the West German Embassy London) on Ost Politik; David Radford (Under Secretary FCO) on the UK position. The closing address, which I am invited to give, would be entitled "The Way Ahead - a Concerted Western Approach?".

Despite the short notice, because someone else, I do not know who, has dropped out, I would be very interested in taking this on, but only if I have sufficient latitude to voice some of the thoughts about the future which have, thus far, been restricted to more private conversations, and to trail the coat a little on current thoughts arising, for example, from the discussion at Chequers a few weeks ago. I would be grateful for your early view on whether you see difficulties about this. If you do, and if I were restricted to wholly conventional thoughts on the subject, I would rather not do it - in which case I must let RUSI know as soon as possible.

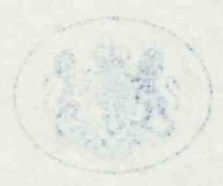
I am
sure not.
Thompson
at a very
delicate
stage of
preparation
not

ALAN CLARK

Charles D Powell Esq

** These are essentially second-tier figures. But it can sometimes be*

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HS
Telephone 01-255 8500
Telex 9140



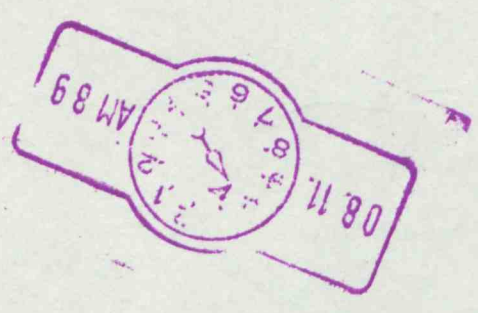
OK M to Neil over cost on such an occasion
because the academic setting gives a certain sensitising effect.

I would of course give you early sight of the text
and include any passages that you would like to insert.

My other work proceeds.

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For



PERSONAL



File

KK

C/Foreign/Clark

bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 November 1989

Thank you for your recent letter about the discussion being organised by RUSI. I think the Prime Minister would feel that things are at a delicate stage at present, and that it would be better not to have a Minister take part, particularly if it meant revealing rather more of our thinking on the way ahead than would be prudent. You may feel this a bit fogey-ish and I doubt the Prime Minister would feel very strongly about it. But I do see advantage in leaving it to academics at the moment.

(C. D. POWELL)

The Hon. Alan Clark, M.P.

dg

PERSONAL