



Ref. A090/275

PRIME MINISTER

Aid to Eastern Europe

1. The Foreign Secretary considers that in view of the importance of the changes taking place in Eastern Europe, and the scale of our commitment to assisting the process, there should be a Cabinet Sub-Committee to co-ordinate policy on the various measures which we are taking both bilaterally and multilaterally. These measures will involve not only the use of the Know How Fund and other means of economic help, but also agricultural issues, environmental matters and political co-operation. Of course, measures other than assistance - for example German reunification or defence policy issues - would be outside its terms of reference and the appropriate Ministerial Committee for them would be OD itself. If you agree that such a body would be helpful, I suggest that it should be a new Sub-Committee of OD, which might be called the Sub-Committee on Eastern Europe.

2. I attach a draft membership and terms of reference which should be sufficient to cover most of the issues which will come up, although of course other Ministers should be invited when measures of assistance affecting their areas of responsibility are being considered.

3. If you are content, I will go ahead with establishing a Sub-Committee on these lines.

R.F.B.

ROBIN BUTLER

1 February 1990

ANNEX

OD(AE)

DEFENCE AND OVERSEAS POLICY COMMITTEE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON EASTERN EUROPE

Composition

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chairman)
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Secretary of State for the Environment
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Secretary of State for Employment
Minister for Overseas Development
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Waldegrave)

Other Ministers will be invited to attend as the nature of the business requires.

Terms of Reference

"To consider questions relating to Britain's policy of assisting change in Eastern Europe."

Secretariat

Mr L V Appleyard
Mr D A Hadley
Mr W D Reeves
Mr L Parker

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FILE KK



ClPPS/Aid.

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

AID TO EASTERN EUROPE

The Prime Minister has seen your minute of 1 February and agreed that a Sub-Committee of OD on Eastern Europe should be established. When she discussed this with you, she expressed her wish that matters of major policy on Eastern Europe should be referred to OD and that the new Committee should deal with the more detailed questions about the application of that policy. She also expressed her wish that OD should meet more often.

ANDREW TURNBULL
2 February 1990

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