

CONFIDENTIAL



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-~~924702~~ 218 2111/3

MO 25/2

25th March 1983

Prime Minister

A.S.C. 25/3

Dear Roger,

We spoke on the telephone about the Defence Secretary's proposed visit to Berlin. Before he visited Portugal for the NPG, Mr Heseltine saw Bonn Telegram No 271 of 18th March about our Ambassador's discussions with the German authorities. In the light of this he spoke to Dr Woerner during their bilateral discussion on Wednesday, a full record of which follows shortly.

Dr Woerner himself raised the issue of how to combat the peace movements in Britain and the organisation which Mr Heseltine had established for this purpose. The Defence Secretary explained the working of the new Ministerial group and the need to combat CND demonstrations by events of our own. He said that there were large scale demonstrations planned in this country for Easter and he had wondered about visiting Berlin at this time since it symbolised the divide between the West and East. He might draw attention to the absence of personal freedom and the right to demonstrate beyond the Wall. He said that he understood that this might be awkward for the German Government and the Berlin authorities at Easter and he wondered if Dr Woerner had any views. Dr Woerner said that Mr Heseltine would be very welcome. The proposed visit was a good idea but it should not be announced in advance in order to avoid provoking demonstrations in Berlin itself.

In the light of this conversation, the Defence Secretary intends to proceed with his visit. He suggests that it might now be concentrated on Maundy Thursday so as to avoid offending susceptibilities about Good Friday. We are planning on travelling to Berlin on Thursday morning, visiting the Wall and the garrison that day, and returning to Britain on Good Friday morning.

We shall of course be in touch with your officials over the content of the comments which Mr Heseltine intends to make while in Berlin.

I am copying this letter to John Coles (No 10) and Bernard Ingham (Chief Press Secretary, No 10).

Yours etc,
Richard Mottram
(R C MOTTRAM)

R Bone Esq

12-5 MAR 1953

12 11 2 19
1953

✓