



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

JC JB
AC
PB

From the Private Secretary

28 April 1999

Dear Howard,

KOSOVO: CZECH POSITION

Thank you for your draft letter from the Prime Minister to Lady Thatcher urging that she speak to the Czech Opposition leader, Vaclav Havel. In the event, the Prime Minister raised this issue in a telephone conversation with Lady Thatcher yesterday. She agreed immediately to speak to Havel.

It would be helpful to know if our Embassy in Prague picks up any reverberations from the Thatcher/Havel exchange.

Yours ever,

JOHN SAWERS

Sherard Cowper-Coles, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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To Scan
② FA/PS



✓ COS
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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

26 April 1999

London SW1A 2AH

Sawers.

Dear John,

Draft Letter from the Prime Minister to Lady Thatcher

... I attach a draft letter from the Prime Minister to Lady Thatcher, suggesting that the latter approach the Czech opposition leader about his lack of support for NATO operations in Kosovo.

The Foreign Secretary discussed this draft with the Prime Minister on the aircraft back from Washington overnight, and the Prime Minister said he was content with it, and that we should forward it to you.

Yours ever,
Sherard

(Sherard Cowper-Coles)
Principal Private Secretary

John Sawers
10 Downing Street

SKP 26/4/99

for PM sig.

SCANNED

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO LADY THATCHER

I am concerned that support in the Czech Republic for what we are trying to do in Kosovo is not as strong as it should be.

At the NATO Summit this week, Vaclav Haval and others told me how a majority of Czechs were opposed to the NATO operation. This is worrying in a new member of the Alliance.

I want to do what I can to shore up support in the Czech Republic, and to minimise the difficulties which the Government faces over the NATO operation. One way of helping would be to reduce the pressure on the Government from the Czech opposition, led by Vaclav Klaus.

I wonder whether you would be prepared to use your links with Klaus, by speaking to him and explaining why the NATO operation, and a NATO victory, are both absolutely essential.

LG on file