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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 September 1987

Prime Minister

CDP
23/9

Dear Charles,

IDU Conference in Berlin

In your letter of 21 September you asked for some additional information for the Prime Minister's visit to Berlin.

Bilateral with Chancellor Kohl

I attach a scene-setting telegram from Sir J Bullard together with his letter of 18 September assessing recent tensions between the CDU and the CSU.

We have confirmed that Herr Weber will be interpreting for Chancellor Kohl and that there will, accordingly, be no need to ask Mr Lederer to attend.

You will have seen Bonn telno 729 reporting that Kohl wishes to raise the so-called Marshall Plan for the Middle East, without putting it on the formal agenda. The Germans bore the brunt of Mr Peres' lobbying on this issue during his European tour in June; Mr Peres has now apparently produced concrete proposals, which Chancellor Kohl is intending to discuss with his Spanish, French and possibly Japanese and US counterparts.

During his June tour Mr Peres explained to the Foreign Secretary that he hopes that the proposal would attract support from the Israeli public and provide a less contentious, non-political role for the plenary of an international conference on the Arab/Israel dispute. We are sceptical, and take the view that such an economic plan should more naturally follow than precede a political settlement.

We recommend that the Prime Minister take the line (which accords with Kohl's own view) that the proposal has value only as one part of an active peace process.

/Berlin

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Berlin

/ I attach a scene-setting telegram from BMG Berlin.

During her interviews the Prime Minister might draw on the following points:

- Berlin Wall most graphic symbol of cruel division which Communism has imposed on Europe.
- Berlin also a symbol of hope and of freedom - freedom enjoyed by two million West Berliners but denied to their neighbours.
- Presence of Protecting Powers (UK, US, France) ultimate guarantee of that freedom.
- Over 3,000 British soldiers and airmen: living proof of our unswerving determination to defend it.
- Our troops will remain as long as is necessary.
- Presence during 750th Anniversary year of all the leaders of the Western Protecting Powers a further reminder of their commitment to Berlin.
- Working with our Western partners, through the CSCE process and elsewhere, to break down barriers and promote freer flow of people and ideas between East and West.
- Must ensure that Berlin and Berliners also benefit. Protecting Powers active in seeking ideas for practical improvements for Berliners.
- Heartily support President Reagan's initiative [to improve air services and bring conferences and meetings to Berlin].

However,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

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