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Miss Neville-Jones, Planning Staff

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30 SEP 1983	
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INDEX	ADDITION TAKEN

Chequers Strategy Meetings

I have discussed with Mr Coles at No 10 how he envisages the Chequers discussions being handled. As a general point, he has stressed his concern that any decision-making at Chequers should be fed in as soon as possible afterwards into the Whitehall machinery in order that the conclusions do not get lost. He is therefore likely, after the meetings, to commission various papers (eg for OD) in the light of discussion at Chequers. As far as attendance, agenda and timing are concerned, I attach a list updating the enclosure to Mr Coles' letter to Mr Fall of 22 July. You will see that Lord Thomas of Swynnerton has been added to the list for the morning of 8 September, as well as Mr Heseltine; that Mr Stanley has been added for the morning of 9 September; and that Lord Cockfield will be present for the lunch and Middle East discussion on 9 September.

Mr Coles added the following glosses (which represent Mr Coles' recommendations to the Prime Minister; she may not necessarily stick to them):

8 September

a.m. East/West Relations discussion with Academics

The eight papers written by the academics come under four general headings, with two papers on each. Mr Coles envisages spending one hour each on these general headings, with the two relevant academics being given five minutes each at the beginning of the hour to summarise their views. After these summaries the floor would then be open to general discussion. He sees the purpose of this discussion as being to bring out the nature of the Soviet Union and the Soviet regime, as background to the 'official' session in the afternoon. But he has suggested that the Prime Minister should encourage the academics to say at every point what they think the British Government/the West should be doing. General discussion of this subject could continue at lunch (at which the academics will still be present).

p.m. General priorities and East/West relations

Mr Coles thought that this session would probably go on until 5.30 pm or 6 pm. He has suggested to the Prime Minister that the first 45 minutes or so might be devoted to looking at the paper on Britain's global interests and priorities in the light of the Secretary of State's covering minute.

/Mr Coles

Mr Coles did not think this could be a decision-making discussion but that a paper on the allocation of resources for our overall effort overseas might be commissioned to follow it up.

After this 45 minutes Mr Coles envisaged discussion turning to our strategy on East/West relations (which was the Prime Minister's main interest). He hoped this would be a decision-making session. He was suggesting to the Prime Minister that she should first of all go through the summary of conclusions in the FCO paper, discussing each in turn as appropriate, and then move on to the action programme, taking the various elements of this similarly.

9 September

a.m. Arms Control and Disarmament

Mr Coles was suggesting to the Prime Minister that she should concentrate discussion for the most part on the strategic agenda paper and the four main questions posed in it (which would also cover the issue raised by Mr Heseltine's paper of the possibility of a distinct voice for Britain). Discussion might also cover the state of play in the various disarmament fields, with a view in particular to considering whether new work/initiatives were needed.

Mr Coles envisaged the Friday buffet lunch as more or less social.

p.m. Middle East

Mr Coles thought it was inevitable that there would be some discussion of the present situation in Lebanon and the future of our MNF contingent. He therefore thought it best to begin with this in order to get it out of the way (I said that we hoped to have sent to No 10 by then some thoughts which might provide a focus for the discussion). He then envisaged covering four broad questions:

- (a) Arab/Israel, in particular how far we or the Ten should try to fill the gap in Western policy left by US elections.
- (b) Whether we should do more to help the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza.
- (c) Whether we should pursue a more active policy in the Gulf, including on the Iran/Iraq war.

/(d)

(d) Trade and financial issues, in particular whether our political stance was sufficiently attuned to our commercial interests.

Mr Coles envisaged this discussion finishing at 4.30 pm to 5 pm.

J. E. Holmes

7 September 1983

(J E Holmes)

cc: PS
PS/Lady Young
PS/Mr Rifkind
PS/Mr Luce
PS/PUS
Sir J Bullard
Mr Cartledge
Mr Egerton
Head of EESD
Head of Defence Dept
Head of ACDD
Head of NENAD
Head of MED

Chequers

5 Thursday, 8 September

9.00 a.m. Meeting

The Prime Minister
Mr. Michael Kaser
Mr. A.H. Brown
Professor A. Nove
The Reverend Michael Bourdeaux
Dr. Alex Pravda
Mr. C.N. Donnelly
Mr. G. Schöpflin
Dr. Ronald Amman
Lord Thomas of Swynnerton
Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP
Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP
Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, MP
Sir Antony Acland
Sir Julian Bullard
Mr. J.M. Mackintosh
Sir Anthony Parsons
Mr. Robin Butler
Mr. John Coles

1300 Lunch

For all the above

Chequers

Thursday, 8 September

1430 Meeting

Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

Mr. Malcolm Rifkind

Sir Antony Acland

Sir Julian Bullard

Mr. Bryan Cartledge

Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP

Sir Clive Whitmore

Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall

Mr. John Blelloch

Sir Robert Armstrong

Mr. David Goodall

Mr. J.M. Mackintosh

Sir Anthony Parsons

Mr. Robin Butler

Mr. John Coles

Chequers

Friday, 9 September

0930 Meeting

Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

Rt. Hon. Baroness Young

Mr. Richard Luce, MP

Sir Antony Acland

Sir Julian Bullard

Mr. Bryan Cartledge

Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP

Mr. John Stanley, MP

Sir Clive Whitmore

Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall

Mr. John Blelloch

Sir Robert Armstrong

Mr. David Goodall

Mr. J.M. Mackintosh

Sir Antony Parsons

Mr. Robin Butler

Mr. John Coles

1300 Lunch For all the above plus

Rt. Hon. Cecil Parkinson, MP

Rt. Hon. Lord Cockfield

Mr. Geoffrey Pattie, MP

Mr. S.L. Egerton

Chequers

Friday, 9 September

1430 Meeting

Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP

Rt. Hon. Baroness Young

Mr. Richard Luce, MP

Sir Antony Acland

Sir Julian Bullard

Sir James Craig (if available)

Mr. S.L. Egerton

Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP

Sir Clive Whitmore

Mr. Geoffrey Pattie, MP

Rt. Hon. Cecil Parkinson, MP

Rt. Hon. Lord Cockfield

Sir Robert Armstrong

Mr. David Goodall

Sir Anthony Parsons

Mr. Robin Butler

Mr. John Coles