

CONFIDENTIAL COVERING SECRET

Mr Moberly  
~~DS~~

EUROPEAN SUMMIT : THEATRE NUCLEAR FORCES (TNF)

1. A senior member of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has approached Mr Scott (UKDEL NATO) unofficially on the question of the forthcoming Belgian decision on TNF. The gist of his message was that it would be very helpful if the Prime Minister were to take the opportunity of the European Summit to speak to her Belgian colleague making clear to him the serious dangers of displaying any sign of hesitation at this stage.
2. Securing the right Belgian decision is of heightened importance in the light of Chancellor Schmidt's recent suggestion for a moratorium on TNF deployments. The Department last week recommended that the Secretary of State should raise the matter bilaterally with both Herr Genscher and M. Simonet.
3. In view of this unusual Belgian approach and the importance we attach to the Belgian decision, I recommend that the Prime Minister should be asked to raise the matter in Luxembourg. It would be preferable for her to speak to Mr Martens bilaterally, but if (as I understand may be the case) there is no suitable opportunity for this, Mrs Thatcher could raise it in the course of the discussion on East/West relations scheduled for the evening of 27 April. In this case, it would be important to prevent conversation being widened into a discussion of Chancellor Schmidt's recent statements or of the line he will take on TNF if he goes to Moscow. The Germans have undertaken in the first instance to consult the Americans, the French and ourselves on this. Its discussion in a wider forum is not likely to be

/ helpful

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Prime Minister  
cc Defence: Pt 2  
TNF  
①  
4  
27/4  
Secretary of State  
H. A. Andrews



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helpful (or indeed welcome to the Germans) for the time being.

4. I submit a draft letter to Mr Alexander, together with Points to Make.

*D. Logan*

D B C Logan  
Defence Department

25 April 1980

cc: PS/PUS  
Sir A Acland  
Mr Bullard  
Mr Fergusson  
WED

*PS/LPS  
PS/Mr Hurd*

*I agree. So does Mr Quinlan (MOD).  
We know that the Americans are much  
concerned at the Belgian position, & have  
been lobbying them to take the required  
decision before the NATO Foreign Ministers  
meet in June.*

*Mr Wobley  
25/4*

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SECRET

Registry  
No.

DRAFT

Type 1 +

## SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret,  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
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Department

## PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

EUROPEAN SUMMIT : THEATRE NUCLEAR FORCES

~~As you know,~~ <sup>The</sup> Belgian Government is due to take its delayed decision on the stationing of theatre nuclear forces (TNF) in Belgium by June. Our fears that the domestic political situation in Belgium may lead to a postponement of the Belgian decision (or, worse still, a negative one) have been reinforced by Chancellor Schmidt's recent suggestion for a moratorium on TNF deployment.

A senior member of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday took the unusual step of approaching unofficially our Deputy Permanent Representative at NATO to express his concern about the situation. He said he thought it would be very helpful if the Prime Minister were to take the opportunity of the European Summit to speak to Mr Martens on the matter. The Foreign Secretary feels that it would be desirable to take up this suggestion: the current crisis in transatlantic relations makes Alliance solidarity on the TNF question particularly important.

I attach Points to Make for the Prime Minister's use. It would be preferable for the Prime Minister to speak to Mr Martens bilaterally. But if this is not possible the Prime Minister could raise the subject at the discussion on East/West relations scheduled for the evening of 27

/ April

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The Telegram  
has been  
copied to you.

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concentrate on the Belgian angle &

April. In this case it would be important to <sup>avoid the</sup> prevent conversation being widened into a discussion of Chancellor Schmidt's recent statements or of the line he will take on TNF if he goes to Moscow. The Germans have undertaken in the first instance to consult the Americans, the French and ourselves <sup>about his visit</sup> ~~on this~~, <sup>its and of that</sup> ~~Their~~ discussion in a wider forum is not likely to be helpful (or indeed welcome to the Germans) for the time being.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brian Norbury (MOD).

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