

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH SECRETARY WEINBERGER

You will be meeting Secretary Weinberger for a briefing on a very highly clasified subject on Monday at 4.00 pm.

I have arranged for the meeting to be held in the Ministry of Defence special briefing room, which has all the necessary equipment. You will probably want to get there just before 4.00 pm to meet Mr. Weinberger when he arrives.

Those present on our side will be Defence Secretary, CDS, Professor Norman and me.

Secretary Weinberger will be accompanied by:

- Dr Don Hicks - Under Secretary for Research & Engineering
- General Powell - Private Secretary to Mr. Weinberger
- General Allen - who will do the briefing

You will want to establish at the beginning whether I can take a note - which would of course be available only to those attending the meeting.

After the briefing you will want to establish with Mr. Weinberger:

- (i) what scope he sees for British involvement;
- (ii) how further discussions should be organised; and
- (iii) who should be involved.

CDP

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14 March 1986



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PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MR. CHARLES POWELL FROM ADMIRAL JOHN M. POINDEXTER, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR FOR THE PRESIDENT

DEAR CHARLES,

SECRETARY WEINBERGER IS COMPLETING HIS PLANS TO MEET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON MARCH 17 AT 4 P.M. ON THE SPECIAL PROGRAM WHICH WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING.

SECRETARY WEINBERGER AND HIS PARTY WILL BE STAYING AT GROSVENOR HOUSE, ARRIVING SUNDAY EVENING MARCH 16. ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY WEINBERGER TO THE MEETING WILL BE DR. DON HICKS, UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING, MAJOR GENERAL COLIN POWELL, BRIGADIER GENERAL SELECTEE JAMES ALLEN, THE BRIEFER AND POSSIBLY COL JOHN DOUGLASS FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. THEY WILL NEED AN OVERHEAD TRANSPARENCY PROJECTOR CAPABLE OF HANDLING 8 INCH BY 10 INCH TRANSPARENCIES MOUNTED IN 10 INCH BY 14 INCH FRAMES. A 16 MILLIMETER SOUND MOVIE PROJECTOR WILL ALSO BE NEEDED AND, OF COURSE, A PROJECTION SCREEN.

THE BRIEFING WILL BE AT ONE OF OUR HIGHEST LEVELS OF CLASSIFICATION. FOR THAT REASON ACCESS MUST BE LIMITED ONLY TO THE PERSONS IDENTIFIED IN THE PRIME MINISTERS MESSAGE. WE MUST INSIST THAT THE INFORMATION GO NO FURTHER. AS WE PROCEED FURTHER WITH OUR DISCUSSIONS, IT WILL, OF COURSE, BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF, BUT FOR THE MOMENT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE INFORMATION REMAIN WITHIN THE GROUP ATTENDING THE BRIEFING.

GENERAL POWELL WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU ON THE MORNING OF 17 MARCH.

SINCERELY,

JOHN

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From the Private Secretary

4 February 1986

Dear Richard,

Following a conversation between the Prime Minister and Mr McFarlane last November, President Reagan has sent the Prime Minister a message offering to brief her and a very limited number of others on some highly sensitive United States military technology, with a view to the United States and the United Kingdom working together on it.

The proposal is that the briefing would be done by Secretary Weinberger who would be accompanied by a small group of experts. The briefing would be restricted to the Prime Minister and four or five others. It would be conducted in London in the week beginning 17 March. We are asked to provide an appropriately secured facility.

The Prime Minister proposes to accept this offer. The time which would suit her best would be 1000-1130 on Wednesday 19 March. She proposes to suggest that those invited to attend the briefing should be the Defence Secretary, CDS, the MOD Chief Scientific Adviser, the Chief of Defence Intelligence and me. The Americans may however insist on a still more restricted group. One option would be to hold the briefing in a secure briefing room in the Ministry of Defence (though there are other alternatives).

The Prime Minister would be grateful to know whether the proposed timing is acceptable to Mr Younger so that she can reply to President Reagan. She would not want any feelers to be put out to others in Washington about this briefing beforehand.

Yours sincerely,  
  
Charles Powell

TNS

Richard Mottram Esq  
Ministry of Defence



1630 18/3

SECRET AND STRICTLY PERSONAL

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1  
Telephone ~~01-930 7022~~ 218 2111/3

MO 14/2E

7th February 1986

*Dear Mr. Aes,*

Thank you for your letter of 4th February.

The main constraint on Mr Younger's timetable is the need to travel to the NPG meeting in Wurzburg in West Germany where he is due to arrive by 1600 hours on Wednesday 19th March. I mention this because it will also no doubt affect Mr Weinberger's travel plans and possibly the timing of the meeting. We are incidentally hoping to arrange a separate introductory getting to know you session with Mr Weinberger as he passes through London. It would therefore be very helpful if your people could keep in touch with mine about their knowledge of his programme.

On the Ministry of Defence team, on reflection I think this should be Mr Younger, CDS, Sir Clive Whitmore and, if there is room, our Chief Scientific Adviser. I also think, again on reflection, that it would preferable to hold the meeting in the secure briefing room in the Cabinet Office rather than here. The presence of both the Prime Minister and Mr Weinberger in this building simultaneously would inevitably arouse more interest and be more visible than the alternative of using your own premises.

*Yours etc,*

*Richard Mottram*

(R C MOTTRAM)  
Private Secretary

Charles Powell Esq  
Private Secretary  
No 10 Downing Street

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