

SECRETOFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

Memo No. 72-81

February 25, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: Admiral Murphy *SM*FROM: Nancy Bearg Dyke *MSD*

SUBJECT: Meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, 26 February 1981, 10:30 a.m.

*Info: She is well aware of U.S. intel capability. As you know so well, Brits are helpful to us. Dan*

You will be joining the President's meeting with Prime Minister Thatcher immediately after her arrival ceremony. We have already provided you biographic data on Mrs. Thatcher, but I have also included a biographic sketch at Tab A for your reference. Richard Allen's and Secretary Haig's memoranda to the President for this meeting are at Tab B. The issues they propose for the President's discussion touch on every region of the world and include domestic economic and defense issues.

In view of the similarity in the President's and Mrs. Thatcher's political outlook, they may well choose to devote most of the meeting to discussion their respective domestic economic policies and relations with the Soviet Union. Considering this and the wide scope of the President's proposed agenda, I would recommend that you prepare to discuss issues of mutual concern in the Third World. You might also plan to explore the implications of Brezhnev's speech before the 26th Soviet Communist Party Congress with Mrs. Thatcher. Since this is principally an official visit designed to acquaint each side with the other's point of view, I suggest you concentrate on soliciting Mrs. Thatcher's views. The following are some issues which you might raise during the meeting:

Brezhnev's Speech. Mrs. Thatcher's assessment of Brezhnev's 23 February speech would probably be very revealing. You might ask for her views on Brezhnev's proposals to:

- renew SALT negotiations "without delay;"
- impose a moratorium on Theater Nuclear Force deployments in Europe;
- extend the geographic zone for military confidence-building measures of the French-proposed Conference on Disarmament in Europe to the Western USSR if the West would reciprocate.

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TO THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS  
REVIEW ON FEBRUARY 25, 2001

The British will probably be trying to feel out our positions on these proposals, just as we are trying to elicit theirs. We have been guarded in our response to the SALT proposal, have no reason to be supportive of the TNF proposal because of the threat it poses to NATO's TNF modernization plans, and we are still exploring what the confidence-building measures proposal might entail. I suggest that you avoid offering the British any more specific position than that we are still reviewing Brezhnev's proposals and plan to consult closely with the NATO allies in responding to them.

Afghanistan-Pakistan. You might ask Mrs. Thatcher's view of Brezhnev's offer to negotiate a separate settlement of the Afghanistan situation. You may wish to ask how she views this offer in relation to the French proposal for a conference on non-intervention in Afghanistan and UN Secretary-General Waldheim's initiative in appointing a personal representative on this problem. Mrs. Thatcher may also be able to offer some views on ways in which the US and Britain could concert their efforts to bolster Pakistan's position.

South Africa-Namibia. Mrs. Thatcher may be able to offer useful views concerning the next steps to be taken by the five Western nations of the Contact Group to press for more flexibility in South Africa's position in implementing the UN plan for Namibian independence. You might ask her views of the prospects for increased Third World pressure for imposing sanctions against South Africa in the UN Security Council, and what steps Britain feels must be taken to avoid a vote on this issue, as they apparently desire.

Northern Africa. You might solicit Mrs. Thatcher's views on the Libyan invasion of Chad and the Moroccan involvement in the western Sahara. You might ask what steps Britain feels are needed to press for Libyan withdrawal from Chad and a resolution to the western Sahara conflict. In view of the prospects for further Libyan adventures in North Africa (and elsewhere), you may want to explore Mrs. Thatcher's views of the most productive areas for US and British cooperation in bolstering Libya's neighbors -- particularly the Sudan.

Central America and the Caribbean. You might underscore our concern over the flow of external support from Soviet client states to the Salvadoran guerrillas and our desire for allied support in opposing this interference. As the British move toward granting independence to their remaining island possessions in the Caribbean, you might explore Mrs. Thatcher's concern over potential Cuban interference with these possessions, once they become independent, and what the British view as necessary pre-independence measures to forestall or prevent such external influence.



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The British are also reportedly interested in discussing issues of defense cooperation. While these will undoubtedly come up in the meeting with the President, you may wish to focus in greater detail on these issues in your Friday luncheon with Lord Carrington. I will provide you with suggested talking points on these issues tomorrow for the Friday luncheon.

Prepared by: G. Philip Hughes

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