



10 DOWNING STREET

13 September 1983

From the Private Secretary

SUBJECT  
cc Major Sel  
copy on Foreign Policy

Defence Strategy on Foreign  
Policy April 1983

Bf cc MOD  
DTI  
COL  
CO

16 DA

See brief,

Chequers : Discussions of foreign and defence policy

I am sending you separately today letters recording the conclusions of the Chequers discussions of 8 and 9 September on (a) East/West relations (b) Arms Control and Disarmament (c) the Middle East.

I should be grateful if the following points on the handling of these letters could be carefully noted.

The fact, nature and outcome of the Chequers discussions should continue to be closely protected. In general, we continue to wish to avoid wider knowledge of these matters.

Nevertheless, it will be necessary to bring the conclusions of the meetings to the attention of those concerned with the execution of policy. The outcome of the discussion of the Middle East presents little difficulty and my letter on that matter may be brought to the attention of those who need to know. But if you judge it necessary to inform our representatives abroad I should be grateful if you could refer simply to "recent Ministerial discussion" rather than the Chequers meeting of 9 September.

As regards the meeting on arms control and disarmament the decisions taken were more in the nature of commissioning further work than new decisions on policy. They may be brought to the attention of those who need to know then subject to the above caveats.

The conclusions of the meeting on East/West relations are in a different category in that they relate to the formulation of a new policy. The Prime Minister would therefore be grateful if in due course the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would prepare a paper for circulation to OD setting out, on the basis of the Chequers conclusions, the considerations which should govern our approach to East/West relations in the next few years. She would like an opportunity to see a draft of the paper which she envisages being circulated not before late October.

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I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), Jonathan Spencer (Department of Trade & Industry), Alex Galloway (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever*

*John Colles .*

Brian Fall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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