



cc: CO LPO  
DTI HMT  
CDO LCO  
LPSO  
MJD

SLHACB

10 DOWNING STREET

bcc: S PC

From the Private Secretary

27 July 1984

EUROPE AND DEFENCE

The Prime Minister has considered the Foreign Secretary's minute of 22 July on this subject. She agrees with the analysis of the challenges but is not convinced that the steps proposed to meet them are adequate.

In particular, the Prime Minister finds it hard to see how she can do more than she does already to emphasise the scale of our commitments to the defence of Europe. She agrees that she should give more time to defence and security issues at bilateral summits with President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl but would like some suggestions for what new she might say in discussion of these matters. She would like to see more specific ideas for improving co-operation in European arms production. As regards encouraging French interest in improving the effectiveness of the European contribution to Alliance forces planning, the Prime Minister would not wish to give the impression of running after the French. She would give priority to bringing home to the Germans how little the French do for them compared with the UK and to steps which would encourage them to develop defence co-operation with the UK as much as with France. The Prime Minister has commented that we should see what we can do through NATO to encourage this especially on matters from which the French are excluded because of their non-participation in the military structure of the Alliance.

BT

The Prime Minister will therefore be grateful if the issues in the Foreign Secretary's minute could be considered more fully, taking into account the comments above and any views expressed by other Members of OD, and more specific and concrete proposals submitted to her.

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I am sending copies of this letter to Private Secretaries to the Members of OD and to Richard Hatfield.

C D POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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