

PRIME MINISTER

CDS' Visit to Egypt, Pakistan and Oman

I attach a very fully report by CDS on his recent visit to Egypt, Pakistan and Oman. You will not wish to read it all but I commend:

- (i) Paragraphs 16-24 on Pakistan. The particular points which merit attention are CDS' judgement that "those who wish to go further in answering the Mujahedin's (in Afghanistan) insistent pleas for more sophisticated weapons would do well to think the problems and the strategy through very carefully, lest excessive enthusiasm make the problems worse not better for Pakistan"; his assessment of the continuing deterioration in Pakistan/India relations; the positive picture he draws of General Zia's role; and the firm indication that the Type 21 Frigate deal will go through.
- (ii) His disquisition in paragraph 34 on the risks of over-selling Tornado to the Omanis. It would use up most of their equipment budget, thus stripping the Army, which is considerably more important, of much needed modern equipment. It would also extend the need for the Omani Air Force to be run by British officers to cope with a weapon of this sophistication. You will also want to note the tribute to General Watts in paragraph 37.

C.D.P.

C. D. Powell

27 February, 1985

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