



United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

July 13, 1987

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

RELEASED IN FULL

TO: The Secretary

FROM: EUR - Rozanne L. Ridgway *JWR*

SUBJECT: Visit of Prime Minister Thatcher: Your Briefing of the President, July 16, 5:45 p.m.

The issues which we believe Mrs. Thatcher will raise and the points which we recommend the President make to her were set out in your memorandum for the President. The checklist below highlights the most important of those and also identifies pitfalls which we should avoid during the visit.

I. PRIME MINISTER THATCHER'S PRIORITIES

- o To discuss our approach to arms control and other East/West issues in our negotiations with the Soviets and to offer her advice on how to deal with Gorbachev, particularly at a summit meeting.
- o To lobby us on the desirability of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, to ask that we not move now to normalize relations with Syria, and to talk about strategies and eventualities in the Persian Gulf.
- o To urge economic and political support for Mozambique and other Frontline States.
- o To review her concerns about some international economic issues and about the continuing U.S. budget deficit.
- o To explain her views on foreign and domestic issues to a broader American audience in television interviews, broadening her exposure as a major world leader.

II. OUR PRIORITIES

- o First, to have the good and stimulating exchange one of Mrs. Thatcher's visits always produces.
- o To obtain Mrs. Thatcher's public reaffirmation of support for our arms control strategy with the Soviets as well as our four-part agenda for developing U.S.-Soviet relations.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Homme, Senior Reviewer

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The official visit of Prime Minister

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- o To seek Mrs. Thatcher's understanding of and support for our tactics in dealing with Asad, particularly in view of the strong views she conveyed to Charlie Price on Sunday.
- o To obtain her understanding of our plans regarding the Persian Gulf, her continued support for activities there in which we are both engaged and for our initiatives in the Security Council.
- o To explain that we believe an international conference on peace in the Middle East would only be useful if it led directly and immediately to face-to-face bilateral negotiations.

III. PITFALLS

- o Take care not to tread unnecessarily on German sensibilities in our discussions and public statements on possible areas for negotiation on arms control.
- o Avoid signalling Moscow that we are overly eager to reach arms control agreements, particularly on INF.

*MS*  
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