

CABINET

MEETING WITH MR. GORBACHEV

Points which you might cover are:

- (i) You found Mr. Gorbachev in lively and confident form. There was nothing in his manner or in what he said to suggest that he was in any sort of difficulty at home. He was very clearly determined to press ahead with internal reforms. His enthusiasm for these seemed in no way diminished.
- (ii) Mr. Gorbachev was obviously very pleased about the INF Agreement. You warned him of the possible difficulties over ratification by the United States' Senate. The best way to overcome these difficulties would be for Mr. Gorbachev to be as forthcoming as he could on human rights and Afghanistan.
- (iii) You found Mr. Gorbachev optimistic on the prospects for a START Agreement. You told him that the Soviet Union must come forward with credible proposals for verification of limits on mobile ICBM's. Mr. Gorbachev had left a clear impression that he believed the problems over this could be overcome.
- (iv) Mr. Gorbachev gave high priority to negotiations for reductions in conventional forces and chemical weapons.
- (v) In discussing SDI, Mr. Gorbachev made no linkage with the START negotiations. You renewed your proposal that there should be agreement on a period of several years during which neither party would withdraw from the ABM Treaty and each side would spell out the nature of the research which it intended to pursue. This would give the reassurance of predictability.
- (vi) You stressed the continuing role of nuclear weapons in

defence, and made clear that the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons would not be included in any of the current negotiations. They were an irreducible minimum for effective deterrence.

- (vii) You welcomed progress in the Soviet Union on human rights, but pressed Mr. Gorbachev to step up the Soviet Union's performance, citing in particular permission for greater numbers of Jewish people to emigrate, family reunification and changes in repressive laws in the Soviet Union. Mr. Gorbachev was prickly in response but said that the Soviet Union would continue to proceed on the lines which they thought right.
- (viii) You also raised Afghanistan urging the Soviet Union to withdraw in 1988. Mr. Gorbachev accused the United Kingdom and the United States of making Soviet withdrawal more difficult by supplying arms to the rebels. If that ceased, all the components of a solution would be to hand.
- (ix) Mrs Gorbachev had a very good visit. The Education Secretary may like to report on the school visit.
- (x) As expected Mr. Gorbachev is making a considerable impact in Washington (there is a phenomenon called "Gorby fever"). But we have little information so far on the substance.

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