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From the Private Secretary

23 May 1989

See copies.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS OF THE CZECH EMBASSY

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had a brief discussion this evening about the expulsion of members of the Czech Embassy which is due to take place later this week. The Foreign Secretary said that, in the light of the considerable publicity over the Soviet expulsions, he saw advantage in postponing action against the Czechs until after the NATO Summit. This would avoid any charge that we were simply trying to create an effect at the Summit itself. The Prime Minister said she thought it much better not to hold up the action but to go ahead as planned. It would not be appropriate to do it next week when Parliament was in Recess. Nor would it be fair to take action while President Bush was here, since it would steal press interest from his visit. The Foreign Secretary accepted the validity of these points and agreed that, subject to any second thoughts, action should go ahead later this week.

I am copying this letter to Colin Walters (Home Office).

CHARLES POWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office