

PRIME MINISTER

Foreign Affairs/Defence

A few points of importance from the telegrams with which I have not bothered you during the Election campaign.

France

Mitterrand is going through one of the worst periods since his election. The latest poll shows that only 33 per cent are still satisfied with his presidency (50 per cent are not), two per cent worse than Giscard ever scored and the lowest level for any President under the Fifth Republic.

Williamsburg Statement on Defence

Our Ambassador in Moscow reports that the Russians seem to have been wrong footed by the unity and firmness of the Williamsburg statement. They did not foresee Japanese and French association with a statement of this kind and Soviet press criticism is now concentrating on these two countries. The Russians may now think that their own statement on the eve of Williamsburg was misjudged.

Japan

Nakasone has come under considerable criticism in Japan for his association with the statement, though he shows no signs of regret.

Following your mention of Nissan to Nakasone in Williamsburg, he has told us that he has spoken to Nissan about the UK project. He says that he told Ishihara that he hoped that Nissan would take the necessary steps to begin manufacturing operations in Britain. Ishihara responded by saying that he would consider what Nakasone had said to him and study the possibility of Nissan taking a decision in favour of manufacture in Britain. It would, however, be necessary to create a consensus within the company. This would take time but Ishihara would do his best to achieve this.

/Namibia ....

Namibia

The Americans say that they are reasonably close to reaching agreement with the Angolans on a plan for Cuban withdrawal. They think they might receive a positive Angolan response by the end of June.

*Very good news if it is a correct judgment.*

Zimbabwe

Mr. Mugabe will be in London (again) on a private visit on Monday and Tuesday. The FCO suggested to me that the Defence Secretary should call on him (since the Foreign Secretary will be in Luxembourg). I do not imagine that you will wish to receive Mr. Mugabe at this time and have therefore told the FCO that I think it is a good idea for the Defence Secretary to call.

*Will be for short time.*

The trial of the airforce officers continues. Mugabe well understands that there will be an adverse reaction if the airforce officers are acquitted but then detained. But he is not committing himself at this stage.

Malawi

You will have seen in the press that there is growing concern about the capital sentences passed on Mr. and Mrs. Chirwa, prominent political figures in Malawi. If and when their appeal against the sentences is rejected, our High Commissioner is under instructions (approved by FCO Ministers) to seek an urgent audience with President Banda and to convey an appeal for clemency on humanitarian grounds.

Belize/Guatemala

There was a serious Guatemalan incursion on 5 June. About 12 uniformed Guatemalans crossed into Belize, apparently to arrest a Guatemalan citizen (who was the source of the information a few weeks ago that there was a guerilla camp in Belize). He apparently tried to run away but was shot, first in the leg and then in the head (and later died). Price is making a protest to the Guatemalans. Though a serious incident, it does not appear to be connected with Guatemala's territorial claim.

/Meanwhile,

Meanwhile, and entirely separately, the Guatemalans have put proposals for a settlement of the territorial dispute to Belize through an intermediary. They suggest two options: the sale to Guatemala of a 12-mile wide strip of land providing access to the sea or a land swap whereby a part of Belize is exchanged for a part of Guatemala. It is not clear what status these proposals have but it is mildly encouraging that the Guatemalans appear to be prepared to make a direct approach to Belize over this issue.

START

You will have seen press reports of President Reagan's statement on "new flexibility" in the START negotiations. ~~but~~ the main thrust of the statement appears to be that the Americans are ready to raise the limit they had earlier proposed for the number of deployed ballistic missile launches and to consider in the negotiations the "destructive potential" of each side (while avoiding a precise requirement of equal throw-weight).

A. J. C.

9 June, 1983