

RECORD OF A MEETING AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF STATE, BARONESS YOUNG, AND A UNITED
STATES CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION: 23 JANUARY AT 1200 HOURS

Those Present:-

Baroness Young
Mr Richards, ECD(E)
Mr Crabbie, Defence Department
Mr MacLennan, NAD
Mr Eldon, Private Secretary/Lady Young

Representatives

Mr Tom Lantos - Leader
Mr Larry Winn Jr
Mr Bill Frenzel
Mr Tom Coleman
Mr William M Thomas
Mr John F Seiberling
Mr William D Lowery
Mr Guy A Vander Jagt

Staffers

Ms Annette Lantos
Mr Chips Chester
Mr Kenneth B Moss
Ms Roxanne Perugino
Mr Donald R Fortier
Ms Ann Stout
Mr Lewis Murray
Mr Leon Pfeiffer

1. Lady Young began by welcoming the delegation and conveying the regrets of both the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State that other engagements had not allowed them to meet the delegation. She would however be reporting to them both on the meeting. The British Government attached very great importance to the Anglo/US relationship and valued such visits.

Grenada

2. In response to a request from Mr Lantos, Lady Young gave some impressions of her latest visit to Grenada. The Island was at peace, there was little sign of fighting and the US presence was unobtrusive. She had seen both Sir Paul Scoon and Mr Braithwaite, the Head of the Interim Administration. Both had said they hoped for elections by the end of the year, though there was some feeling on the Island that they should be postponed. The UK had made available £3/4 million aid up to March 1984 and much of this would be spent on police training. We had seconded two CID officers to help in collecting evidence for the trials of Coard and others. We had also offered to help with the supervision of elections. In general, Lady Young said she had come away encouraged, though there remained the considerable problem of what to do about the large number of former members of the Peoples Revolutionary Army who had suddenly found themselves unemployed as a result of the US intervention.

3. Mr Lantos asked whether, leaving aside the matter of advance consultation, we approved of the US action. Lady Young said

there was no doubt that the Grenadians and other East Caribbean countries had welcomed the US action. We had disagreed at the time but the important thing now was to look to the future. Mr Winn, referring to press reports in that morning's papers of the Prime Minister's interview with the New York Times, wondered why Mrs Thatcher had raised again the question of lack of consultation. Lady Young said she had not seen the article in question. It was true that we had taken a different view at the time, and as a result of the US action questions had been raised about the arrangements for the control of Intermediate Range Nuclear Missiles based in Britain. We had made it clear that the two issues were not comparable; as far as Grenada was concerned the important thing now was to concentrate on the future. Mr Frenzel wondered whether we would have taken part in the intervention if we had been asked to. Lady Young said that the Grenada affair had underlined the need for the UK and US to consult closely on issues of this sort.

Falklands/Argentina

4. Referring to the US certification of Argentina, Lady Young said it was understood by us that this did not automatically mean arms sales. We had received welcome assurances from Mr Weinberger and others about this. The Administration understood our concerns and had been very helpful. US certification had been difficult to explain to the public in the UK but the advance warning and consultation that had taken place had made it possible to prepare the ground.

5. Lady Young said we had welcomed the return of democracy to Argentina and the Prime Minister had sent a message of congratulation to Alfonsin. We were ready to see better relations with Argentina in a number of areas, notably economic commercial relations. It might eventually be possible to do something on diplomatic relations. But we could not negotiate the sovereignty of the Falklands. It had been useful for her to talk to the Falkland Islanders about this during her recent visit to the Islands; and she had also looked at economic and other developments there. The new airport would have an important civilian role and had been recommended by Lord Shackleton as long ago as 1976. There were encouraging signs that the Islands' economy was improving. A number of the larger estates had been sold off and small businesses started.

Middle East

6. In response to a question from Mr Lantos about possible developments in Lebanon, Lady Young said that it was not in our interests to remove our forces from the MNF. The alternative of a UN force could prove difficult to organise and we were ready to leave our MNF contingent in Lebanon as long as they had a role to play. We still thought the long term prospects for peace lay with the Reagan plan. It was important now to support the moderate Arabs. Mr Lantos wondered whether Syria was acting independently or under the control of the Soviet Union.

/Lady Young

Lady Young referred to the Secretary of State's recent meeting with President Assad in Damascus. We would like Syria to withdraw from Lebanon but recognised that this was probably contingent on Israeli withdrawal. Mr Lantos commented that he saw little prospect of that.

Enlargement of EC

7. Mr Vander Jagt asked about the prospects for Spanish and Portuguese accession to the EC. Lady Young said the present timetable envisaged accession by the beginning of 1986. Discussion was continuing on detailed arrangements. Prior legislation would be necessary in the UK.

Turkey

8. Mr Vander Jagt wondered if there was anything the EC could do to encourage progress towards full democracy in Turkey. Lady Young said we welcomed the Turkish elections as a step in the right direction. We valued the Turkish presence in NATO and hoped that they might move further down the road towards democracy. Turkey was not of course in the EC but Britain had good relations with Turkey and there had been plenty of Ministerial contact in the course of which we had raised frankly our concerns about human rights.

Cyprus

9. In response to a question from Mr Coleman, Lady Young said the immediate problem in Cyprus was to deal with the Turkish Cypriot declaration of UDI. This had been condemned by the US, the UK and others in Europe. We had called for consultations under the Treaty of Guarantee, but so far Greece and Turkey had set mutually incompatible pre-conditions for such talks. Close UK/US collaboration was important and it was important that nothing should be done by anyone which would make matters worse. In UK's view, the best way forward was to support the UN Secretary-General. We hoped the parties were serious in their search for a solution. If partition became permanent, there could be serious consequences.

NATO

10. Mr Seiberling asked about feeling in US and in Europe that conventional forces should be strengthened to reduce the likelihood of the use of nuclear weapons. Lady Young said that NATO had been one of the great post-war success stories. But there was a risk of a generation gap with the importance of NATO and the value of the US contribution today, not being fully appreciated. NATO was one of the pillars of the UK's Foreign Policy and we had played a full part in meeting the 3% real growth target. But it was also important to keep negotiating with the Russians.

11. Mr Lantos wondered about the Soviet Union's motives in walking out of the Geneva talks and asked how we saw the

/dynamics

dynamics of East/West relations. Lady Young said that we had regretted the Soviet Union's decision to leave the INF talks. But we had supported the line taken by President Reagan in his 16 January speech and were glad that Mr Shultz had met Mr Gromyko at the CDE. Sir G Howe had also had a useful meeting with him. It was clear that improving relations with the Russians could be a slow business but this did not mean we should stop looking for a dialogue with the Soviet Union and the East Europeans. We had to understand each other's concerns. Mr Lantos said that he and his wife were frequent visitors to Hungary and he could assure us that Mrs Thatcher's planned visit was very welcome. Hungary was desperate for contact with the West.

Terrorism

12. Mr Lantos then asked whether we saw state-supported terrorism as a possible new and dangerous trend. Lady Young said that terrorism was a very serious matter. The UK resolutely refused to give in to any form of blackmail. She was sure that there was already good international co-operation between us on this.

13. After a short exchange on the Harrods bombing, the meeting ended at 1250 hours.

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PS/Lady Young
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