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QUESTION:

Could I ask about the genesis of this 2 plus 4 formula, who thought it up, was it something that came out of meetings actually among NATO partners or is it, as Downing Street sources are suggesting this morning, Mrs Thatcher's idea?

FOREIGN SECRETARY:

We certainly discussed it last week with Mr Medvedev when he was in London and the more we considered it among ourselves in London the better it seemed to be as a procedure. I came here therefore an enthusiastic proponent of it and I have found a relatively open door. Obviously it had also been discussed by others so it is a child, the moment of conception of which it is rather difficult to gauge, but it is none the worse for that.

QUESTION:

I am still not clear on how you perceived its conception, was it a mutual thing or was this an initiative of Mrs Thatcher?

FOREIGN SECRETARY:

It was certainly an initiative of the British Government but other people were also thinking along the same lines and the best arrangements are those which are born in precisely that way, where different people, using a spot of common sense, come to find when they put their heads together they have come to the same conclusion, it is a very good basis.