

PREM 19/2693

CONFIDENTIAL FILING

FRANCO - BRITISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE

IN 1984

& Subsequent correspondence

FRANCE.JUNE 1983

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
28.6.83		2.3.87					
27.1.84		4.3.87					
8/2/84		5.3.87					
16.5.84		18.6.88					
18.6.84		18.5.89					
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PREM

19/2693

Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents

[illegible]

The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate **CAB** (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed J. Gray

Date 29/9/2016

PREM Records Team



Cile M

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

18 May 1989

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

Thank you for your letter of 18 May about the succession to Philip de Zulueta as Chairman of the Franco-British Council. I am sure that John Leahy is an admirable choice. I agree that we should hold on to the Prime Minister's message until the Council have decided whether to carry on the initiative started by Philip de Zulueta.

C D POWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

mem



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 May 1989

121815
Dear Charles,

Franco-British Council

Sir Philip de Zulueta's death on 14 April left the Franco-British Council's British Section without a Chairman. The Foreign Secretary has appointed Sir John Leahy (cv enclosed) as new Chairman. This choice has been firmly endorsed by British Section members and Sir John Leahy took up the Chairmanship on 10 May. The Foreign Secretary told the French Foreign Minister of the decision when they met on 16 May.

The Prime Minister had signed, just before Sir Philip de Zulueta's death, a message of support for his proposed Britain-France Foundation. The Franco-British Council and the Foundation's Trustees will be considering whether this personal initiative by Sir Philip de Zulueta can now be taken forward. Meanwhile, we will, if you agree, hold the Prime Minister's message.

Some progress has recently been made over reinvigorating the Franco-British Council. We hope that the change in chairmanship will accelerate this process.

Yours,
Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

SIR JOHN LEAHY, KCMG

Born 1928.

RAF 1950-52. Joined Foreign Office 1952. APS/Minister of State 1953-54. Singapore 1955. FO 1957. Second later First Secretary Paris 1958. FO 1962. Head of Chancery Tehran 1965. FCO 1968. Head of Establishment and Organisation then of PSD 1969. Head of News Department 1971. Counsellor and Head of Chancery Paris 1973. AUS on loan to NIO 1975. AUS (Information/UN/North America) 1977. HM Ambassador Pretoria/Cape Town 1979. DUSS FCO 1982. High Commissioner Canberra 1984.

Married. Two sons; two daughters.

Retired from DS February 1988. Lives in Seaford, Sussex.

File



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

18 June 1988

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

Thank you for your letter of 17 June about Sir Philip de Zulueta's plans to involve the Prime Minister in fund-raising for the Franco-British Council. The Prime Minister has already undertaken to hold a number of fund-raising occasions stretching well into the future, and is not prepared to take on any more.

Charles Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED AND PERSONAL

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RESTRICTED & PERSONAL

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 June 1988

*I really can't -
we have several
fund raising occasions already that
Dear Charles, your work. I
can't ask for anymore, but
Franco-British Council*

*Prime Minister
Agree not to
be associated
with this? CAP
176*

Sir Philip de Zulueta, Chairman of the British side of the Franco-British Council, has told us that he plans to approach you to seek the Prime Minister's involvement in his efforts to set up a Franco-British foundation. This foundation would be a charitable trust, one of whose purposes would be to provide financial support for the Council's activities (which are at present financed primarily by the FCO grant-in-aid of £60,000 pa). Sir Philip claims French support for this idea. His objective is to raise an initial endowment of £1 million from private sponsors by asking the Prime Minister to host an occasion for 30 to 40 leading industrialists, each of whom would be asked to contribute £25,000.

In other circumstances we would have recommended that the Prime Minister lend her support to an initiative to make the Council largely self-financing. But in this case we have serious reservations.

You will recall that last year the Prime Minister decided not to attend the Council's Cardiff conference. This conference was in any case subsequently cancelled because of the General Election. The Council, principally in the person of Sir Philip himself, continued nevertheless to remonstrate strongly with us over what they saw as lack of interest by HMG. We made clear to them that a Council which stood or fell by Prime Ministerial involvement alone was not the kind of Council we wanted to see. We were interested in a Council which was lively, active, promoted new contacts between the UK and France and had practical results to show for the resources devoted to it.

We have had some modest success in persuading the Council that they needed fundamentally to re-assess their objectives. They have decided to discontinue the kind of large conference which they planned for Cardiff, and instead to set up task forces to study particular aspects of the Franco-British relationship and identify ways of developing them. But progress in turning these good intentions into practice has so far been disappointingly slow.

/We

RESTRICTED & PERSONAL



RESTRICTED & PERSONAL

We have also impressed on the Council that it should not expect to rely entirely on its FCO grant-in-aid, but should actively cultivate independent resources (although one should not draw too close a parallel between France and Japan, Lord Jenkins' 2000 Group shows how much can be achieved by private sector initiative).

It has to be said frankly that many of the problems in the Council spring from Sir Philip's own chairmanship. Its constitution does not provide a ready means to remove him, though this probably could be achieved with sufficient support from other members of the Council. If this does not happen naturally, we may need to engineer it; but we would only want to do so if we had identified a suitable successor who would be willing to take on the job. Such a person would need to be dynamic, sufficiently senior to have the prestige required in French eyes and preferably would need to have an entrepreneurial background. We are looking for possible candidates. On the French side, the Chairman is equally unsatisfactory, but since he is a socialist senator President Mitterrand seems unlikely to make any change. We will however be reviewing the whole operation of the Council with the French Government in the autumn, and there seems to be a growing realisation on the French side that a radical shake-up is needed.

This background makes it difficult to recommend that the Prime Minister support Sir Philip's scheme. We doubt whether he has the energy and vision to carry it through. When he first mooted the proposal for his foundation, we welcomed his intention to go out to the private sector. He was talking then of directly approaching four or five key figures to see if they would provide the bulk of the money. His new proposal looks like an attempt to throw the main responsibility for drumming up support on to HMG (and no doubt to pin the blame for any failure on us). Given our doubts about Sir Philip, we do not believe that the Prime Minister should take this on: it would be much better for the Council to seek private sector finance on its own responsibility. The position would be different if the Council had stronger and more purposeful leadership. But if it did, it would be a lot more likely to be able to stand on its own two feet.

Yours ever, L. Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED & PERSONAL



FILE
MAG
CRO

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 March 1987

Dear Sir Philip,

Thank you for your letter of 2 March.

I am very glad that the Council's Cardiff Conference is to go ahead; I am sure that you have made the right decision. As Geoffrey Howe has already told you, we take your point about the chance which these Conferences offer for the Government to reaffirm its commitment to developing relations between Britain and France. I am sorry not to be able to come to Cardiff, but shall be happy to send a message of good wishes to the Conference, and look forward to seeing you and Senator Pontillon after it. Please also let me know if you have any trouble in identifying a suitable senior member of the Government to speak at the opening dinner.

I am glad that you will be discussing with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office how the Council should continue and develop its work. You should be in no doubt that the Government continue to see an important role for it to play.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Sir Philip de Zulueta

de



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 March 1987

Dear Charles,

Franco-British Council

Thank you for your letter of 2 March, enclosing a draft reply to Sir Philip de Zulueta's letter of the same day to the Prime Minister.

Now that the Franco-British Council have decided to go ahead with the Conference in Cardiff, our interest is that they should work to make it a success. The Council will work enthusiastically only if they are confident of HMG's support: hence our efforts over the past month to reassure them that they still have this even though the Prime Minister cannot attend the Conference. The Foreign Secretary hopes therefore that the Prime Minister might reply in rather warmer terms than you propose. I enclose a draft.

Yours ever,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell esq
10 Downing Street

DSK 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Copies to:

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Sir Philip de Zulueta

Franco-British Council

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

Thank you for your letter of 2 March.

I am very glad that the Council's Cardiff Conference is to go ahead; I am sure that you have made the right decision. ~~It will offer a valuable opportunity for~~ senior people on both sides of the Channel to meet and discuss the range of important issues set out in the Conference programme.

As Geoffrey Howe has already told you, we take your point about the chance which these Conferences offer for the Government to reaffirm its commitment to developing relations between Britain and France. I am sorry not to be able to come to Cardiff, but shall be happy to send a message of good wishes to the Conference, and look forward to seeing you and Senator Pontillon after it.

Enclosures flag(s)

Please also let me know if you have any trouble in identifying a suitable senior member of the Government to speak at the opening dinner.

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FRANCE: Franco-British Council: June 83.

I am glad that you will be discussing with the FCO how the Council should continue and develop its work. You should be in no doubt that the Government continue to see an important role for it to play. ~~I hope that together you will be able to find ways for it to meet its full potential.~~





File 156

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

2 March 1987

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

pk 7
I attach a copy of a further letter from Philip de Zulueta and a draft of the reply which I propose that the Prime Minister should send. I should be grateful for any comments.

CHARLES POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

DT3

ow 53 ccRC

Franco-British Council **BRITISH SECTION**

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

2nd March, 1987

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Thatcher, M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1.

Dear Prime Minister,

You will, I expect, have already been told that the French Section of the Council have now agreed to go ahead with the Cardiff Conference. This decision was substantially due to the helpful intervention of the Quai d'Orsay and the Matignon. The French are naturally disappointed that you and Geoffrey cannot come but I hope that we shall be able to achieve senior representation from British Ministers, perhaps with Quinton Hailsham or Willie Whitelaw speaking at the dinner on the first night. The kind offer of a message from you about the Conference and the Council's work generally was much appreciated, as was the suggestion that Senateur Pontillon and I might pay you a brief visit after Cardiff to report on the Conference.

I hope very much that you will continue to take an interest in the Council's work as your presence at the previous Conferences was so greatly valued and of such great help in maintaining French and, of course, British enthusiasm for the Council's work. I shall now discuss future plans with the F.C.O. to make sure that the Council's ideas are welcome to H.M.G.

Yours very sincerely
Philip de Zulueta



FILE
DA
LFC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 February 1987

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

Thank you for your letter of 20 February about the problems which have arisen over the decision by the Prime Minister and M. Chirac not to attend the forthcoming meeting of the Franco-British Council in Cardiff.

The Prime Minister would be content to show support for the Conference by other means than attending it. She would, for instance, be perfectly happy to send a message and to see the two co-chairmen afterwards to receive a report on the proceedings. I have mentioned this to M. Bujon in M. Chirac's office, who thought that M. Chirac would be perfectly content with this procedure.

(Charles Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

Sir Philip de Zulueta reacted intemperately to the news that you (and M. Chirac) would not attend the Franco-British Council at the end of May. This is entirely unreasonable, since he had no reason to believe that you would do so. Since the Avignon meeting we have consistently told him not to assume that you would attend. He didn't want to hear.

Still, we need to get him to simmer down. The proposal is that you and M. Chirac should both:

- a) send messages to the meeting;
- b) agree to see the French and British Chairmen afterwards, to receive a report of the proceedings.

This would be an elegant way out.

Agree?

Yes not

C DP

(C.D. Powell)

20 February 1987



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 February 1987

Dear Charles,

Franco-British Council

Thank you for your letters of 9, 12 and 16 February. The Foreign Secretary subsequently invited Sir Philip de Zulueta to call on 18 February.

There is, as you say, no reason why the Franco-British Council should have assumed the Prime Minister's attendance at their Cardiff Conference. You and FCO officials have repeatedly made it clear to both Sir Philip de Zulueta and Mr Hadley that her attendance this time should not be taken for granted. (Sir Philip did not dispute this in discussion with the Foreign Secretary, but claimed he had interpreted it as "understandable caution on the part of officials"). Both we here and the Embassy in Paris have avoided suggesting to the French that the Prime Minister would go to Cardiff, despite occasional indications that M Chirac would if she did.

There is also no justification for the Council's complaint that they were kept unnecessarily long without a clear decision: once the Prime Minister's decision not to go to Cardiff had been taken the Department warned Mr Hadley of it informally on the telephone and of the imminence of a letter to Sir P de Zulueta, well before the meeting with the French Section of the Council. Sir Philip's behaviour in reaction to the Prime Minister's letter to him of 5 February have strengthened our view, which we know to be shared by some members of the Council, that his attitude and style of leadership may no longer be in the Council's best interests.

/We



We have considered how to handle the present situation in order to avert the possibility of Sir Philip persuading the Council to cancel the Cardiff Conference, which he has called an extraordinary meeting on 25 February to discuss: or even to dissolve itself, alleging loss of government interest. Sir Philip suggested in talking to the Foreign Secretary that the Prime Minister might adopt some other means of showing support for the Conference; and we believe that this avenue may offer a solution. If the Prime Minister would agree to send the Conference a message associating herself with it, and afterwards to see jointly the Chairmen of the French and British Sections of the Council to receive a report of the Conference and of the Council's other activities, this would provide the earnest of high level support for the Council which they seek. We would ask M Chirac to join in sending a message and similarly to receive the two Chairmen.

I should be most grateful if you would let me have an early indication of whether the Prime Minister would agree to this proposal. If so, we should like to act on it before the Council's meeting on 25 February. The Foreign Secretary's meeting on 23 February with M Raimond would provide an opportunity to put it to the French.

Yours ever,
L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
No 10 Downing St

FRANCE · Franco Canal
June '83



RESTRICTED



file

DTS

(36)

cc Sir P. Cradock

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

16 February 1987

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

I have seen a copy of Paris Telegram No 154 about the French reaction to the Prime Minister's inability to attend the Franco-British Council meeting in Cardiff. Monsieur Bujon (Monsieur Chirac's Diplomatic Adviser) told me today that he had informed the French organisers that Monsieur Chirac would definitely not be attending the meeting in Cardiff. He had been asked by Senator Pontillon not to give publicity to this for the time being. He had also been asked whether Monsieur Chirac would have any objection to an attempt to find alternative dates which might suit the Prime Minister better. Monsieur Bujon had said that there would certainly be no objection to such an exercise from the French side but it was a question for us.

It seems increasingly likely, therefore, that the Franco-British Council's approach will be to try to pin the Prime Minister down to an alternative date. As you know, this is not what the Prime Minister wants. It suggests to me that we should try hard to persuade the Franco-British Council to accept an alternative speaker, for instance, the Lord Chancellor or the Lord President if they happen to be available and given that the Foreign Secretary is otherwise engaged.

C D POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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FM PARIS
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 154
OF 131126Z FEBRUARY 87
[COWAR]

Restricted

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL MEETING IN CARDIFF, MAY 1987

SUMMARY

1. FRENCH DISAPPOINTMENT AT PRIME MINISTER'S ABSENCE.

DETAIL

2. SENATOR PONTILLON (CHAIRMAN OF THE FRENCH SECTION OF THE FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL) SPOKE TO ME LAST NIGHT ABOUT FRENCH DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE CARDIFF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN MAY. SEPARATELY, CHIRAC'S CHEF DE CABINET TOLD MY MINISTER YESTERDAY THAT A ONE-DAY VISIT TO CARDIFF BY CHIRAC FOR THIS OCCASION REMAINED A FIRM FIXTURE IN CHIRAC'S DIARY. A FRENCH MEMBER OF THE FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL'S DEFENCE COMMISSION (WHO HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL SINCE ITS INCEPTION) ALSO TOLD WESTON LAST NIGHT THAT IF THE CARDIFF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WAS NOT A MANIFEST SUCCESS, IT WOULD IN HIS VIEW SPELL THE DEMISE OF THE COUNCIL. OTHERS ARE BEGINNING TO CANVAS THE POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING THE MEETING TO A DATE WHICH MIGHT BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER.

3. THE FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL IS THE MAIN FORMAL CONDUIT FOR HIGH-LEVEL NON-GOVERNMENTAL BILATERAL EXCHANGES WITH FRANCE, AND HAS SOME SYMBOLIC VALUE FOR THE FRENCH, PARTICULARLY WHEN SET BESIDE THE ELABORATE HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES THEY HAVE WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. WHILE THE ESSENCE OF THIS SORT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENTERPRISE IS THAT IT SHOULD GENERATE ITS OWN ENERGIES AND INTERESTS, VISIBLE POLITICAL COMMITMENT BY BOTH SIDES AT THE BIENNIAL MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL WILL REMAIN NECESSARY TO ITS CONTINUED HEALTH AND SELF-CONFIDENCE. IT WILL REQUIRE AN EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH THAT WE ARE NOT BEGINNING TO DOWNGRADE THE COUNCIL AND ALL ITS WORKS.

FRETWELL

YYYY

PCLNAN 7437

NNNN

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WED

Restricted

*No paper
announced
Chirac
my
in
his
date
1987
1987*



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 February 1987

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

I enclose a copy of a further letter from Sir Philip de Zulueta about the Franco-British Council. You will want to take this into account in tendering your advice on his earlier letters. This should reach us by 18 February please.

Charles Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

cc F/O
AC

Franco-British Council BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

12th February, 1987

Charles Powell, Esq.,
Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1A 2AA.

Dear Charles Powell,

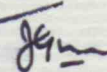
What you say in your letter of February 9th is, of course, true: it is also true that we have always carefully avoided saying definitely that the Prime Minister had accepted to come to the Cardiff Conference. Unfortunately, however, this is all irrelevant in the present circumstances. Preparations for Cardiff have been going on for the last seven months with the full knowledge of the Foreign Office and the Welsh Office, and, of course, of the French Government. As you know, these meetings were originally built around the concept of the two Prime Ministers coming to them and making speeches, thus giving public expression to their joint interest in Franco-British relations. It was, therefore, not unreasonably assumed on both sides that, subject to some quite unforeseen event, the Prime Ministers would attend, particularly our Prime Minister as Britain is the host country, and when Monsieur Chirac signified his firm intention to attend the general assumption was naturally confirmed.

What particularly distresses me about the present situation is that it makes the Prime Minister look both discourteous and uninterested when I know that she is neither. That is why I hope sincerely that the Prime Minister will find it possible to change her decision about Cardiff and agree to attend, subject, of course, to unforeseen complications, such as the calling of an Election in late May or early June. Should the latter event take place the Conference will have to be cancelled anyway.

I would have replied to your letter sooner but I had to go to Chicago, whence I am dictating this.

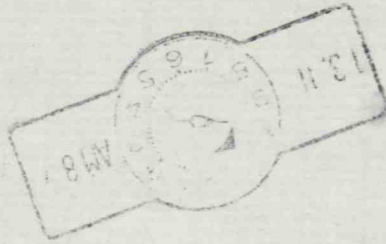
Yours sincerely,

pp. Philip de Zulueta



Dictated by Sir Philip de Zulueta
and signed in his absence.

FRANCE: Franco - Bureau Bureau June 8





DA

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 February 1987

Dear Sir Philip

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to acknowledge receipt of your letters of 6 February and 9 February, the first of which crossed with her own letter to you of 5 February. The Prime Minister will of course reply herself in due course. I would only recall that my letter of 10 December 1985 to Mr. Hadley and my letter of 8 July 1986 to you both made clear that any decision about her participation in the next Franco-British Council Conference would have to wait until nearer the time, and could not therefore simply be assumed.

Yours sincerely
Charles Powell

(Charles Powell)

Sir Philip de Zulueta

Shw



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 February 1987

Dear Sir,

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

I enclose copies of two letters to the Prime Minister from Sir Philip de Zulueta. The first, written on 6 February, deals with the arrangements for the Franco-British Council meeting in Cardiff. The second, dated 9 February, is a reaction to the Prime Minister's letter of 5 February explaining that she will be unable to attend the Conference.

Sir Philip's peremptory letter of 9 February has no justification. If you go back through the files you will discover:

- (i) My letter of 1 December 1984 to Colin Budd recording the Prime Minister's conclusion that it should no longer be considered indispensable for Prime Ministers to take part in meetings of the Franco-British Council and suggesting that Foreign Ministers should be regarded as the natural representatives of their respective governments.
 - (ii) My letter of 3 January 1985 to Colin Budd agreeing that the FCO should tell Sir Philip de Zulueta that he should not automatically assume that the Prime Minister would attend the Conference in future.
 - (iii) My letter of 29 November 1985 to Colin Budd recalling this position and saying that I proposed to reply in this sense to a letter from Mr. Hadley of the Franco-British Council. I did so on 10 December 1985.
 - (iv) My letter of 8 July 1986 to Sir Philip de Zulueta saying that any decision about the Prime Minister's participation would have to wait until nearer the time.
 - (v) My letter of 9 July 1986 to Robert Culshaw once again recording the position.
 - (vi) My letter of 4 September 1986 to Colin Budd noting that the proposed dates for the Franco-British Council were most inconvenient for the Prime Minister.
 - (vii) My letter of 19 January to you once again setting out the position.
- 86

In the light of all this, the Franco-British Council in general, and Sir Philip de Zulueta in particular, should have no reason whatsoever to have assumed the Prime Minister's attendance. In retrospect, it is a pity that we did not take a firm decision, as was recommended initially from here in 1984, that the Prime Minister would not attend in future. The timing of the Prime Minister's recent letter to him may also have been unfortunate, but I am afraid that we were not aware here that the French and British Sections of the Council were currently meeting in Paris.

I should be grateful for any advice which you may have to offer on how to reply to Sir Philip's letter. It would also be helpful to know what discussions the Foreign Office have had with the Franco-British Council about the Conference in recent months and what has been said in the course of these about the Prime Minister's attendance. Meanwhile I will send Sir Philip a holding reply.

Yours sincerely
(C.D. Powell)

(C.D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Franco-British Council BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

9th February, 1987.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Thatcher, M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1.

Dear Prime Minister,

CARDIFF CONFERENCE

Your letter of February 5th ^{at top} reached me on my return from a visit to Brussels today and has crossed my letter to you of February 6th.

I must admit that I was surprised and distressed by what you wrote. To start with the timing of your letter could scarcely have been more unfortunate since it was written on the very day on which (as the Foreign Office at least knew perfectly well) the French and British sections of the Council were meeting in Paris. At this meeting the French Section again assured us that Monsieur Chirac was looking forward to coming with you to Cardiff and had entered the date in his diary. The French Ambassador had, incidentally, confirmed this to me some two weeks ago. As I mentioned in my last letter, the two sections did agree that if an election was called here for the early summer the Conference would have to be postponed because British politicians would be unable to come and French politicians would feel inhibited. I am myself doubtful whether either the French or British sections of the Council will feel justified in putting public money and private effort into holding the Conference if the Prime Ministers are not prepared to come. You mention an alternative speaker to yourself for the dinner but there is no alternative to you. As you know, on these occasions it is not so much what is said as who says it that matters.

I have two reasons for feeling distressed that you are not prepared to come to Cardiff. The first is the discourtesy and apparent lack of interest which your

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Thatcher, M.P.

9th February, 1987

decision, in my view, implies to the French. Britain is the host country on this occasion and you will recall the annoyance even of the French when President Giscard d'Estaing at the last minute sent Monsieur Barre to represent him at the Bordeaux meeting and also that Monsieur Fabius came to Avignon for the meeting even though his father had only just died. Even if Monsieur Chirac himself accepts that you have good reason not to come this time it will clearly be impossible to conceal from the French that it was you who first decided to stay away. My second, and perhaps more important concern, is that your decision seems to indicate a lack of British government interest in the work of the Council whose formation was, as you know, a British initiative taken when The Queen visited President Pompidou. Steady work to maintain and improve Franco-British relations seems to me and to my members of great importance - perhaps even more important for Britain than for France. So far the members of the Council have felt that their voluntary efforts were supported by all the political parties and in particular by the Heads of Government. Perhaps unjustly your decision will be taken to imply a lack of interest in our modest efforts and will naturally be so discouraging to our members, both French and British, as to call in question the usefulness of the Council - even though it is, so far as I know, the only government supported effort in the field of Franco-British relations.

You will understand, therefore, why I feel that it is my duty to ask you to reconsider your decision. If you feel unable to do so I should be grateful if I could come to see you to discuss the matter before we have to tell the French (or indeed my own Council).

Yours very sincerely
Philip de Zulaeta

FRANCE: franco Button Council June 83



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Franco-British Council BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

6th February, 1987

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Thatcher, M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

CARDIFF CONFERENCE

We had a meeting of the French and British Sections of the Franco-British Council in Paris on February 5th which finalised most of the arrangements for the Cardiff meeting. I thought that I should perhaps send you a brief report at this stage as to where we are.

We are going to try at Cardiff to be a little bit more specific in our themes and to concentrate on what Britain and France could and should do together in a number of fields. On the Friday, May 29th, after an Opening Session we look forward to what is really the highlight and, in a sense, the main point of the Conference, namely the speeches by yourself and Monsieur Chirac at dinner. We had hoped that the Prince of Wales might come to the luncheon, but much to the regret both of the French and of the Welsh His Royal Highness has declined owing to a previous engagement. On the Saturday we shall divide, as usual, into Committees so as to give people a chance to talk and we are having six such Committees this time on: defence and security, foreign policy, industrial competition, energy and the environment, education and training, and European identity. I think this should cover most of the appropriate fields.

On Saturday evening Monsieur Raimond proposes to come to speak at the dinner and to attend the Session on the Sunday, and I know that Geoffrey is kindly trying to fit in with this arrangement. On Sunday, May 31st, Linda Chalker has kindly agreed to take the Chair at the final wind-up Session. So I think the programme makes reasonable sense and, of course, everybody understands that if an Election is called at that time we shall have to postpone the meeting.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Thatcher, M.P.

6th February, 1987

As you will know, this will be the fourth major Conference run by the Franco-British Council (Bordeaux, Edinburgh and Avignon being the earlier ones) and I should much like, after the Conference is over, to take a few minutes of your time to discuss how best to proceed in the future. I think these major Conferences have been of real value because, of course, they are the only occasions on which the British and French Prime Ministers normally have the opportunity of speaking at a joint meeting and emphasising their interest in getting on well with each other, or at least understanding the problems. But it may or may not be appropriate to continue with these meetings in the future, although if we do not I think that some similarly high profiled occasion at fairly regular intervals is really rather necessary.

Finally, I enclose a list of the new members just elected to the French Section of the Council. You will see that they have managed quite a good level of participants.

On a quite different matter, I just wanted to say how touched I (and of course his family) was that you made the time to attend Harold Macmillan's funeral. I shall miss him very much - his wisdom and his wit. He was a great man - and a great admirer of yours.

Yours very sincerely,
Philip de Zulaeta

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

FRENCH SECTION

New members as from January 1987

- M. Edmond ALPHANDERY Député, maire de Longues-Jumelles. Président du groupe d'amitié France-Grande-Bretagne à l'Assemblée nationale.
- M. Jean-Pierre BOUYSSONNIE Membre de la Commission nationale de la communication et des libertés (CNCL). Président de la Société des ingénieurs scientifiques de France. Président d'honneur de Thomson-CSF, de Centrest et du Groupement des industries électroniques. Officier de la Légion d'honneur, Commandeur de l'Ordre national du mérite.
- M. Hervé de CARMOY Directeur de la division internationale et des grandes entreprises de la Midland Bank Plc. General Manager de la Midland Bank Plc à Londres.
- Mme Michèle COTTA Journaliste. Editorialiste à Europe I. Ancienne présidente de la Haute Autorité de la communication audiovisuelle.
- M. René GROUSSARD Conseiller-maître à la Cour des comptes. Ancien directeur général du Centre national pour l'aménagement des structures des exploitations agricoles (CNASEA). Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, Officier de l'ordre national du Mérite, Croix de guerre 39-45, Croix du combattant volontaire de la Résistance, Commandeur du Mérite agricole
- M. Gabriel VENTEJOL Président du Conseil économique et social. Délégué du gouvernement au conseil d'administration du Bureau international du travail à Genève. Commandeur de la Légion d'honneur et des Palmes académiques.
- M. Jacques VIOT Ancien ambassadeur en Grande-Bretagne et au Canada. Officier de la Légion d'honneur, Commandeur de l'ordre national du Mérite.

.../...

.../...

M. Jean WAHL

Nouveau Trésorier de la section française
(en remplacement de M. Jean DROMER).
Président-directeur général de la Société
européenne pour la reconversion, l'emploi
et le développement international (Euredi)
et de Coopers et Lybrand Associés.
Professeur à l'Institut du commerce inter-
national. Officier de la Légion d'honneur,
Chevalier de l'ordre national du Mérite,
Croix de guerre 39-45, Médaille de la France
libre, Chevalier du Mérite agricole, du
Mérite maritime, Commander du Victorian
Order, du Mérite de la République italienne,
Officier de l'ordre national de la République
de Côte d'Ivoire.



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 February, 1987.

Dear Sir Philip,

You were kind enough to write to me in July last year about the next Franco-British Council Conference, which is to take place in Cardiff on 29-30 May, and to suggest that I might attend. My Private Secretary then replied that a decision on whether I would be able to take part would have to wait until nearer the time.

I am very sorry to say that I now find that I cannot be present on this occasion. This is a disappointment after three enjoyable and interesting Conferences. But I thought it better to let you know straight away while there is still reasonable time to find another speaker at the dinner on 30 May.

I hope that the Conference will prove as stimulating as its predecessors.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Sir Philip de Zulueta

PRIME MINISTER

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

I have now clearly established that M. Chirac will, like you, not attend the Franco-British Council in Cardiff on 29-30 May. You ought now to warn Sir Philip de Zulueta that you will not take part. I attach a letter.

Agree to sign?

M. Chirac would nonetheless like to have a brief and informal meeting with you at some point between your visit to Moscow and his, which is likely to be in late May. Would you agree to my exploring the possibility of his coming over one day in that period for a working lunch, either at No. 10 or Chequers?

Yes

C.D.P.

C D POWELL

4 Februry 1987

SLHAGB



CONFIDENTIAL

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 February 1987

Dear Charles,

at Paris
Franco-British Council: Cardiff Conference, 29/31 May

Thank you for your letter of 19 January.

Both our Embassy in Paris and the Franco-British Council had separately been told by the French that M Chirac was planning to attend the Council's Conference in Cardiff on 29 May in the expectation that the Prime Minister would go. I think that, now that she has decided firmly against, it would be best if you were to write to Sir Philip de Zulueta, since if he heard of the decision by any other channel, he would in any case be likely to approach you for confirmation.

The Foreign Secretary is likely to visit Japan during the Whitsun Recess. It is not yet clear whether he can be back in time for the Franco-British Council. I should therefore be grateful if your letter did not commit him to attendance in Cardiff for the time being.

We shall also keep in mind M Bujon's proposal that M Chirac and the Prime Minister meet after her visit to Moscow. You will know that M Chirac also intends to visit Moscow in the spring, though we understand probably not before Easter. Since their last meeting was in Paris (at the Anglo/French Summit in November), it might be appropriate for the Prime Minister to invite M Chirac to Britain.

Yours ever,

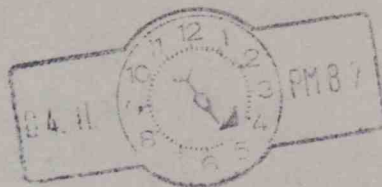
L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

FRANCE Franco - British Council,



June 83

CONFIDENTIAL



file VSCADV
cc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

19 January 1987

From the Private Secretary

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL: CARDIFF CONFERENCE, MAY 1987

I last wrote to your predecessor on 4 September last year, about the question of the Prime Minister's attendance at the Franco-British Council in Cardiff on 29 May.

As the Office will be aware, the Prime Minister concluded immediately after the last meeting that it should no longer be considered indispensable for Prime Ministers to take part in meetings of the Franco-British Council, any more than in Königswinter Conferences, and that the "natural" level of representation ought to be Foreign Ministers. The organisers were consequently told that they should not count upon the Prime Minister's attendance.

In addition, as I said in my letter under reference, the date is a most inconvenient one for the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has now firmly decided that she will not be able to attend. I have informed M. Bujon, in M. Chirac's office, of this as a matter of courtesy. My impression is that M. Chirac equally will be unable to attend.

Clearly it would soften the blow if, at the same time as telling the organisers of this decision, we could say that the Foreign Secretary would be able to attend. I should be grateful to know if this is the case; and whether you would like me to write or would prefer to write yourselves.

I should add that M. Bujon said that M. Chirac would very much like a chance to meet the Prime Minister at some point in the late spring/early summer, after her visit to Moscow. We shall need to give thought to this.

CHARLES POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

We have to decide whether you should attend the Franco-British Council in Cardiff on 29 May. The French have indicated that M. Chirac will attend if you do.

My advice is that you should not attend, for the following reasons:

- (i) at the last meeting in December 1984, it was noticeable that the calibre of French participation was well below that of the British side. You agreed following that meeting that I should tell the FCO that it should no longer be considered indispensable for Prime Ministers to take part in its meetings. Foreign Ministers should be regarded as the natural representatives.
- (ii) the change of government in France does not, to my mind, alter this decision. Relations with Chirac are good: you had an unprecedented number of meetings with French leaders last year: will be seeing Mitterrand and Chirac at the European Council only a month after the Franco-British Council meeting: and will probably have to pay a brief visit to Paris in the summer to exchange instruments of ratification of the Channel Tunnel Treaty.
- (iii) you may well have a lot of other engagements at the end of May: you would have to make a speech: and the date in question is anyway in the middle of the Whitsun recess.

If you agree not to attend, it is only fair to give Chirac as long notice as possible and to try to present it as a joint decision by you and Chirac (to avoid any impression of a snub, or of us trying to downgrade the meeting in the face of French

enthusiasm). I would like, therefore, to speak to Chirac's chef de cabinet, explain to him frankly what our problems are, and try to secure a pact whereby you both decide to stay away this time and leave it to Foreign Ministers, without prejudice to what happens in two years' time.

Agree?

Yes

CDP

CHARLES POWELL

16 January 1987

EL3BQX

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*File 11b
adrl Cradock*

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

4 September 1986

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL:
CARDIFF CONFERENCE, MAY 1987

Thank you for your letter of 2 September. I now discover that 29 May is in the middle of the Whitsun recess. This would be a most inconvenient date for the Prime Minister and further increases my conviction that we should not plan on her attendance.

CHARLES POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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11

010
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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 September 1986

① ~~Mr~~ Ryder
We don't need to
take a decision now:
we can consider in
December.
But it might be prudent
to phcil 29 May into the diary pro
Dear Charles, memos. It could always be
combined with a political visit.

Franco-British Council: Cardiff Conference May 1987

We duly noted the Prime Minister's wish to postpone the decision on whether or not to attend the Franco-British Council's Conference in Cardiff in May 1987 until it became clearer who would attend on the French side. You may however like to know that M Chirac's office have told the Embassy in Paris that M Chirac would attend the Conference if the Prime Minister did so. The Embassy were careful not to suggest that any decision had been taken that she would do so.

You may also wish to note that the Council have now decided, in conjunction with the Welsh Office and Cardiff City Hall, that the dinner to which they are inviting the Prime Minister and M Chirac will be on the first night of the Conference, ie 29 May.

② CF

Yours ever,

Please bring

forward on 10 December

Colin Budd

CDD
5/9.

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

Mr Powell

This is the
middle of the
Whitton Process
so most inconvenient.
But noted.

ER 419

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 July 1986

Der Führer,

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL: CARDIFF CONFERENCE MAY 1987

Thank you for your letter of 9 July about the preparations for the next Franco-British Council, to be held in Cardiff in May 1987.

As you will see from earlier correspondence a decision was taken in 1984 that it should no longer be considered indispensable for Prime Ministers to take part in meetings of the Franco-British Council. This stemmed from the Prime Minister's experience of the meeting in Avignon, where the French Government had been represented throughout at a significantly lower level than the British Government. The Prime Minister continues to believe that we should not automatically assume that she will attend, and I recently had an exchange of correspondence with Sir Philip de Zulueta in which I said that any decision about her participation in the 1987 Conference would have to wait until nearer the time. The prospect of the Prime Minister's attendance should not, therefore, be held out to the French Government as a bait to attract M. Chirac.

Yours sincerely
Charles Powell

(Charles Powell)

R.N. Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 July 1986

Dear Charles,

Franco-British Council (FBC): Cardiff Conference May 1987

* in fact
Colin Budd's
Earlier correspondence about the Prime Minister's possible attendance at this Conference ended with my* letter to you of 10 December 1985, in which I said we might wish to recommend her attendance if there were a new French Prime Minister who decided to attend.

The FBC have now started planning for the Conference. They are confident from contacts with the French wing of the FBC that M. Chirac will decide to attend and senior Quai officials also expect him to do so. Despite being told that they should not count on the Prime Minister's attendance they very much hope that she will agree to be present if M. Chirac goes, and that both Prime Ministers will attend one of the Conference dinners. We understand that the FBC envisage a civic dinner on the first evening (29 May) hosted jointly by the City and County Councils at which Mr Callaghan or Mr Kinnock might be guest speaker on the UK side. The FBC's initial thinking is to invite Mrs Thatcher and M. Chirac to a dinner on the second and final night (30 May) at a venue outside Cardiff - Caerphilly Castle has been mentioned among other possibilities.

The Council appear to be approaching the planning of the Cardiff Conference in a more workmanlike way than on previous occasions. They are establishing a steering committee to identify suitable topics for discussion, select appropriate participants to match the topics chosen, and ensure a better balance between the British and French participants. They will be seeking sponsorship and support from private concerns as well as from the local authorities in Cardiff. They are devoting particular attention to publicity aspects - Lord Forte has offered the services of his public relations team, and a number of senior journalists will be invited to participate in the proceedings. We believe that the overall result should be a better and more cost-effective occasion.

/We

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We recommend that the Prime Minister be consulted with a view to deciding in principle that, if M. Chirac decided to go to Cardiff, she would also do so. The Conference could provide a useful opportunity for a meeting with M. Chirac at the mid point between the annual bilateral Summits and, subject to confirmation of dates, shortly before the Belgians' European Council. There should be no problem in ensuring that any speech by the Prime Minister receives good media coverage.

TEMPORARILY RETAINED G. Gray 29/9/2016

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

I am copying this letter to Colin Williams at the Welsh Office.

Done

Adrian (Culshaw)

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 July 1986

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 3 July giving further details of the next Franco-British Council to be held in Cardiff from 29-31 May 1987. Mrs Thatcher was grateful to be kept informed of your plans. But I am afraid that any decision about her participation will have to wait until nearer the time.

Charles Powell

Sir Philip de Zulueta

SPW

Cholera
Parachute
MKN 8/7

Prime Minister. ①

We did not have time to consider this at
our diary meeting. Agree Choles' line at 'x'?

MKN 7/7

MR. ADDISON

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

A decision was reached in 1984 that it should no longer be regarded as indispensable for Prime Ministers to take part in the meetings of the Franco-British Council. The natural level of representation should be Foreign Ministers. The Council were therefore told that they should not automatically assume that the Prime Minister would attend in future.

We were told last November that the next meeting would be held in Cardiff in May 1987. The organisers were told in reply that we had noted the dates, but that a decision on the Prime Minister's participation could only be taken nearer the time.

Sir Philip de Zulueta's letter is an attempt to pin the Prime Minister down now by saying that Monsieur Chirac and the Prince of Wales are likely to attend. In fact, neither has yet taken a firm decision. Any hint that the Prime Minister was likely to attend would be used by Sir Philip to extract a commitment from M. Chirac and the Prince of Wales.

X | I propose therefore that we reply that it is still too early to reach any decision about the Prime Minister's participation. You may like to mention this at the diary meeting, and I will then write back.

C.D.P.

CDP

4 July, 1986.

JD3ANF

R417 PP. 1-5 6/4/7

Franco-British Council **BRITISH SECTION**

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

3rd July, 1986.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Thatcher, M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1.

Dear Prime Minister,

I believe that during my temporary absence when I was taken ill last autumn James Hadley, my Director General, wrote to you about the proposed next Franco-British Council Conference, which is at the moment scheduled to take place in Cardiff from May 29th to 31st.

After your kind interest at the last three Conferences I hope that we can indeed count upon your coming to Cardiff as on previous occasions. Meanwhile, I thought that you might like to know that a senior member of M. Chirac's staff has recently told us that M. Chirac would be glad to come to Cardiff. He does know of the Council's work; he has indeed been our guest at dinner in London and has offered us the hospitality of the Hotel de Ville in Paris. Obviously this indication was given on the basis that both Prime Ministers would be present and, equally, on the basis of present knowledge of future commitments. However, I felt that this was an encouraging indication of M. Chirac's continuing interest in the Council, of which you should be aware.

TEMPORARILY RETAINED G. Gray 29/9/2016

**THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Thatcher, M.P.

3rd July, 1986

As I say, I know that you have already noted the dates provisionally in your diary for 1987 but I thought that it would be appropriate just to bring you up to date on progress so far in making other arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Philip de Zurewicz

Franco-Brit. Conference: FRANCE

June 83



CF pps? cc Bx
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 December 1985

Dear Charles,

Franco-British Council

Thank you for your letter of 29 November about the major conference of the Council in Cardiff in May 1987. We are content for you to reply to James Hadley as you suggest.

There is no new consideration we would wish you to take into account at present. But there could be circumstances in which we might wish to recommend that the Prime Minister participate, or at least be present for part of the time, for example if there were a new French Prime Minister who decided to attend.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

FRANCE

FRANCE / BRITISH
COUNCIL

JUNE 83





ce PC

SLW

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 December 1985

The Prime Minister has asked me to reply to your letter of 27 November about the dates of the next 'major' conference of the Franco-British Council.

We have noted these dates but any decision about the Prime Minister's participation can of course only be taken much nearer the time.

(C. D. POWELL)

GA

James Hadley, Esq.



SKW

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 November 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the Director of the Franco-British Council about the next major Conference, to be held in Cardiff in May 1987. He expresses the hope that the Prime Minister will attend.

AM You will recall earlier correspondence in which we agreed that the Council should not assume that the Prime Minister would in future automatically attend their major conferences. Unless you have any new consideration of which you wish me to take account, I shall reply in this sense.

(C. D. POWELL)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SKW

R28

Franco-British Council BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

27 November 1985

Dear Prime Minister,

In the absence of my Chairman, Sir Philip de Zulueta, who is indisposed, I am writing to say that, at a joint meeting of the two sections of our Council, it was agreed that the next 'major' conference should be held in Cardiff on Friday 29th to Sunday 31st May 1987.

It is the unanimous hope of all present at that meeting that, circumstances permitting, you would be able to join us once again and to contribute as you did so successfully at our previous conferences in Bordeaux, Edinburgh and Avignon.

Yours Sincerely,

James Hadley

James Hadley
Director

No
OK/CF

Any previous pp's?

MA 28/11



bc: Sir P. Cradock

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 January 1985

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

Thank you for your letter of 31 December about the handling of future participation by the Prime Minister in meetings of the Franco-British Council.

The Prime Minister is content with the line proposed in your letter, namely to tell Sir Philip de Zulueta that he should not automatically assume that the Prime Minister will attend in future, but otherwise to let the matter lie for the time being.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

DG2AAK

lv



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister⁽¹⁾

31 December 1984

Content in this line?

Dear Charles,

Franco-British Council

Thank you for your letter of 1 December.

Sir Geoffrey Howe had himself formed the view that it should not always be necessary for Prime Ministers to take part in the meetings of a body such as the Franco-British Council, and that it would be natural for Foreign Ministers to represent their respective governments. His main concern now is that our presentation of this view to the French should be handled in the right way.

Sir John Fretwell's advice on the probable French reactions reinforces the view that we should move rather carefully. The danger is that to suggest to the French at this point that Prime Ministers should no longer participate would risk giving the impression that we are in some way dissatisfied with the Avignon meeting and wish to downgrade the Council. It would also run counter to the improvement in the atmosphere of Franco-British relations flowing from the Paris Summit. However carefully we explained the position, the French would look for some other motive (perhaps an intention to administer a reproof to Fabius) and would interpret our intention as a negative political move.

The next meeting of the Franco-British Council will not take place for 2 or 2½ years and arrangements for it will be in the hands of the British section of the Council. It will be at least a year before they begin to choose place, dates and themes; and this would be the time to tell the British Section that they should not count on Prime Ministerial participation. By that time too, we should have a clear idea in our own minds of exactly what we want these meetings to achieve.

We shall be talking to Sir Philip de Zulueta soon, to take stock of the Avignon Conference. There are a number of lessons including the need for new blood in the Franco-British Council and for stronger participation by French

/Ministers



Ministers, as Tom King has cogently pointed out. We shall also have a preliminary word with Sir Philip about the timing and possible place of the next conference. Subject to the Prime Minister's views, we would not propose to say more to him at this stage than that he should not automatically assume that the Prime Minister will attend and that that indication should be treated as wholly in confidence to him personally.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

France : Franco-British Council.

6/83



Q en

2

PARIS, le 12 Décembre 1984

LE PRÉSIDENT

Prime Minister

*Thank you letter from
Senator Pontillon. Translation*

Madame le Premier Ministre,

attached.

C.D.P. 3/1

Je tiens à vous dire, au nom de la section française du Conseil Franco-Britannique, combien nous avons été sensibles une fois encore à l'intérêt que vous avez bien voulu marquer par votre présence aux travaux inauguraux de notre Conférence en Avignon.

Nous avons surtout été touchés par votre participation effective, tout autant que par celle de trois membres de vos cabinets qui ont suivi nos travaux d'une façon assidue, mais davantage encore sans doute par la valeur et par la qualité du message que vous avez bien voulu exprimer.

Ceci constitue pour les membres du Conseil Franco-Britannique un précieux encouragement pour poursuivre, dans l'intérêt commun à nos pays, l'oeuvre de coopération dans le cadre bilatéral et européen que nous assigne notre histoire commune et les responsabilités qu'elle induit.

Je vous prie de croire, Madame le Premier Ministre, en l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Yours very sincerely

[Signature]

Robert PONTILLON

Madame THATCHER
First Minister
LONDON
UNITED KINGDOM

Franco-British Council
French Section
11 bis, Avenue Victor Hugo
75116 Paris
Tel 500.94.98

The President

Paris, 12 December 1984.

Dear Prime Minister,

I wish to convey to you on behalf of the French Section of the Franco-British Council how very much we again appreciated the interest which you kindly showed by being present at the inaugural proceedings of our Conference at Avignon.

Above all, we were touched by the fact that you yourself took part, as well as by the presence of three members of your cabinets [sic] who followed our proceedings most attentively, but perhaps still more by the value and quality of your own message.

For the members of the Franco-British Council that represents a most valued encouragement to pursue, in our countries' common interest, the work of cooperation at bilateral and European level assigned to us by our common history and the responsibilities which it entails.

Complimentary close

Robert PONTILLON

Mrs Thatcher
First Minister
London
UNITED KINGDOM

I am told that it
was he who bought
your house for his daughter?

C.D.D.



BM

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 December 1984

Dear Mr. Weiller,

Thank you very much for the beautiful crystal vase containing chocolates which you so kindly sent to me during my short visit to Paris. It was a very generous thought which I greatly appreciated.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely
Raymond Standaert

Commandant Paul-Louis Weiller

EU



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 December 1984

Dear Squadron Leader Neil,

I write to thank you and your crew for the most comfortable flight last week to Paris and Avignon. It went most smoothly and I am grateful for all that was done to make my journey so pleasant.

I understand that you will be taking me for at least part of my visit to the Far East and Washington just before Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all again then.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Squadron Leader P.I.A. Neil.

eu

Prime Minister G. xii
CDP

Franco-British Council BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

ms

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

5th December, 1984.

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

R6

PPS
ms

Dear Prime Minister,

This is just to say how deeply grateful everyone at the Avignon meeting was that you were able to spare the time to come and give us such a stirring speech. It was very good to see you and if I may say so your presence always raises the morale. But I thought that on this occasion it was particularly appropriate that you should have given such an impression of warmth towards Anglo French relations following your very successful Summit meeting with Monsieur Mitterrand. All the French present were delighted and so of course was

Yours very sincerely

Philip de Zulueta

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

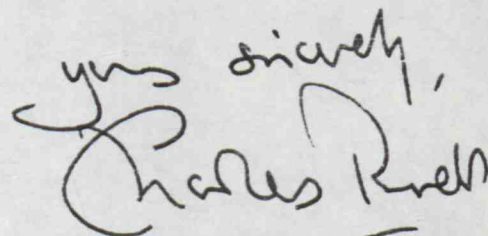
1 December 1984

Dear Colin,

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

The Prime Minister has reached the conclusion that, with the Franco-British Council now well-launched, it should no longer be considered indispensable for Prime Ministers to take part in its meetings. In future Foreign Ministers should be regarded as the natural representatives of their respective Governments.

Clearly the implementation of this decision will need to be handled delicately and in close cooperation with the French Government. The aim must be a joint conclusion in the sense which I have indicated. Although there is some considerable time before the next meeting, there is much to be said for getting the point established now. You will wish to consider how this can most effectively be handled.

Yours sincerely,


C D POWELL

Colin Budd Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 November, 1984

Dear Charles,

CR

Franco-British Council Conference

For the Prime Minister's visit to Avignon, I enclose
as requested eight copies of the following:

*

- (i) programme
- (ii) a note on the Franco-British Council and on the themes of the Conference
- (iii) British and French delegation lists
- (iv) personality notes on
 - (a) M. Fabius
 - (b) M. Hernu)
 - (c) M. Gatel) French Ministers at the Friday evening dinner
 - (d) M. Keller, Prefet du Vaucluse (Avignon area)
 - (e) M. Roux, Mayor of Avignon
 - (f) M. Pontillon) French and British Presidents
 - (g) Sir Philip de Zuluetta) of the FBC

*
Sent
separately

Can I remind you of my letter of 4 October, drawing attention to remarks made by M. Fabius on UK economic policy in media interviews (copy attached for ease of reference)? Although no further remarks of this nature by Fabius have come to our attention, we would maintain our advice that the Prime Minister should take advantage of the various contacts she will have with him in Paris and Avignon to seek to put straight the misconceptions about Britain which he seems to harbour.

I am sending copies of this letter, and its enclosures to Graham Sandiford (NIO), David Normington (Department of Employment) and Paul Pegler (Chief Secretary's Office, HM Treasury).

Yours ever,

Gavin Budd

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL



FRANCO BRITISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE, AVIGNON
PROGRAMME FOR VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER, 30 NOVEMBER/1 DECEMBER
Friday 30 November

- 1730 Arrival at Orange military airfield by special flight from Paris (Orly).
Met by M. Laurent Fabius, Prime Minister,
M. Jean Keller, Prefect, Commissioner of the Republic for the Department of Vaucluse,
M. Jean-Bernard de Vaivre, Deputy Chief of Protocol
- 1740 Departure by car for the Prefecture at Avignon.
M. Laurent Fabius will travel in the Prime Minister's car
- 1805 Arrival at the Prefecture. M. Fabius takes leave of the Prime Minister
- 1845 Prime Minister and M. Fabius leave the Prefecture for Avignon Town Hall
- 1850 Arrival at the Town Hall. Met by M. Andre Roux, Mayor of Avignon. Reception given by the Mayor.
- 1930 Prime Minister and M. Fabius return to the Prefecture
appx
- 2020 Prime Minister leaves Prefecture for the Palais de Papes
- 2025 Prime Minister arrives at the Palais de Papes conducted by the Deputy Head of Protocol to the Salle du Grandtinel. Welcomed by M. Fabius, Senator Robert Pontillon, President of the French Section of the Franco-British Council, Sir Philip de Zulueta, President of the British Section of the Franco-British Council.
- Aperitifs in the Salle du Grandtinel
- Presentation of the Members of the Franco British Council to the Prime Minister and M. Fabius. Dinner in the Salle du Conclave, hosted by M. Fabius in honour of the Prime Minister (black tie/long dress)
- Speeches by both Prime Ministers
- 2245 Prime Minister takes leave of M. Fabius and returns
appx to the Prefecture

Saturday 1 December

- 0800 Prime Minister leaves Prefecture for Orange Military
appx airfield. At Orange, Deputy Chief of Protocol bids farewell
- 0830 Departure of special aircraft for London

THE FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

I Origins and Activities

1. The Franco-British Council (FBC) was set up by the French and British Governments after The Queen's State Visit to France in May 1972, with the aim of developing contacts between the two countries in the fields of economics, politics, culture and science. Small committees of leading figures in these fields promote, with the aid of a modest Government grant (a little over £50,000 per annum on the UK side) a programme of seminars and other activities (bestowal of Awards and Fellowships, arrangement of Exchange visits, etc). Recently seminars have covered Agriculture, Health and Social Security and Regional Development - a seminar to discuss the preservation of our respective National Heritages is under discussion. The Council's activities are coordinated on the UK side by a full-time Director (currently Mr James Hadley).

2. Since 1980, major conferences have been organised every two years (Bordeaux 1980, Edinburgh 1982). These conferences have drawn together a larger number of participants for more wide-ranging discussions of Franco-British relations than those in the seminars. The French and British Prime Ministers have attended part of each of the Conferences.

II The Avignon Conference

3. The theme of the Conference is to be 'The Entente Cordiale - Where do we stand now', and the Conference will seek to examine the strengths and weaknesses in Franco-British relations today.



In preparation for the Conference, the FBC commissioned a survey by the BBC of attitudes of young people in Britain and France towards each other (the results were published at the beginning of this week and are relatively encouraging - 72% of French people found the English ''sympathique'' and 61% of English people thought the French were ''nice''). Four committees will discuss Security issues (Franco-British cooperation in European Defence, the Atlantic Alliance and defence procurement); Economic cooperation (attitudes to extra-European competition and world indebtedness: obstacles to bilateral trade); social problems (a comparison of our approaches to the recession and the problem of unemployment) and Communications (ways of developing cultural and ''physical'' exchanges).

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
28 November 1984

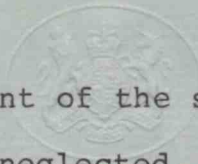


FABIUS, LAURENT

Prime Minister since July 1984. Married with one child. Speaks good English.

Born 1946 in Paris, son of an antique dealer. On graduation from ENA, entered the Conseil d'Etat. Recruited as Principal Personal Assistant to Mitterrand. Socialist Deputy for Seine-Maritime since 1978. Official spokesman for the PS 1979-81. Ministre-délégué for the budget 1981-83. Minister of Industry and Research 1983-84.

Fabius is one of the star members of the new generation of Socialist Party politicians. He has a brilliant academic record. Before his appointment as a Minister he made a notable contribution in the National Assembly from the Opposition benches, particularly on financial and economic questions. Despite his close links with President Mitterrand, his role as Budget Minister was subordinated to that of Delors, the Minister of the Economy and Finance, with whom he was said to have a number of differences on policy during their first few months in office. His appointment to the Ministry of Industry, where he also covers Research, Energy and the PTT, was a mark of the high esteem in which Mitterrand holds him. In his first months in the job, Fabius faithfully reflected the President's view that nationalised industries should run their own affairs and



that the private element of the socialists' mixed economy should not be neglected. This pragmatic, liberal image fits well with Mitterrand's apparent intention to move towards the political centre before the 1986 legislative elections.

The appointment of a young, energetic technocrat as Prime Minister was seen as a move by Mitterrand to recapture the political initiative after the Socialists' poor showing in the European parliamentary elections. No one doubts Fabius' intellectual gifts, nor his capacity for hard work - but some question whether he has yet had time to develop the political skills and strength of character demanded of a Prime Minister.

HERNU, CHARLES



Minister of Defence since 1981.

Born 1923 in Finistere. Studied law at Lyons. Journalist. Radical deputy for the Seine 1956-58. For part of this time Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Assembly. Appointed Délégué Général of the Federation de la Gauche 1965, and Vice-President 1967. Member of Management Committee of the PS since 1971. Mitterrand faction. Won (against Communist opposition) the important mairie of Villeurbane (near Lyons) in 1977. PS Deputy for the Rhone, 1978-81.

Hernu is one of Mitterrand's lieutenants from the days of the Convention des Institutions Républicaines. He staked his political fortunes on the Federation of the Left between 1965 and 1968, but the Socialists and Radicals never liked him and following the break-up of the Federation he was on the fringe of the opposition. His victory in the 1977 Municipals raised his stock in the party considerably. As the PS expert on defence affairs he was at the centre of the party's internal debate on nuclear weapons, favouring the maintenance of the French nuclear deterrent. His views have prevailed, despite some continuing opposition among the rank and file. As Minister he seems to have gained the respect of the Armed Forces, despite problems over the defence budget.

CONFIDENTIAL

/M. Hernu



M. Hernu is rather reserved, despite a superficial fluffness. He seems quite well disposed towards Britain. He has been twice married. His present wife is a freelance journalist. Four children.

GATEL, JEAN



State Secretary attached to the Prime Minister with responsibility for Socio-Economic Affairs since July 1984.

Born 1948 at Vienne in Isère. Studied history, geography and economics at the Universities of Lyon and Aix-en-Provence. Secondary school teacher 1971-81. Member of Orange Municipal Council since 1977. PS Deputy for the Vaucluse since 1981. Secretary of the Defence Commission of the National Assembly 1981-83. State Secretary in the Ministry of Defence 1983-84. Member of the CERES faction.

Gatel first came to Hernu's attention as a student at the University of Lyon. He appears to have impressed Hernu by his work on the Defence Commission of the National Assembly. But his appointment as the Minister of Defence probably owed as much to Mitterrand's desire to bolster the Left's standing in the Vaucluse (where the Socialists did badly in the 1983 municipal elections) as to Gatel's competence as a defence specialist. He has made little public impact as a Minister.

Remarried. Two children.



KELLER, JEAN

Prefet, Commissaire de la République du Vaucluse since early 1984. Born 1921 in Germany, the son of a General. He graduated in law from Toulouse University. His career has been throughout in the prefectural service and includes a term in Guadeloupe (1960-64) and five years in the office of the Minister responsible for French Overseas Departments and Territories (DOMTOM) 1964-69.

Monsieur Keller has served as sous-prefet in several regions of France (Condom, Vichy, Alès) and was prefet in the Pyrénées-Orientales (from 1982) before moving to Avignon.

Married with one daughter and two sons, Monsieur Keller is something of a connoisseur of wine : he hails from Cahors and is fond of the local wine (the grape harvest in the Cahors area has been severely damaged by the weather this year). Madame Keller is said to be fond of dogs.



ROUX, JEAN-PIERRE

Mayor of Avignon.

Born 1938. Monsieur Roux, who is an engineer by profession, is an RPR member and a friend of Monsieur Chirac. He is a member of the European Parliament. He seems to be not very often in Avignon, but spends a lot of time in Paris. He is well disposed towards the United Kingdom. Married with two children. He is an enthusiast of the Vaucluse and was Député for the region from 1968 to 1973.

PONTILLON, ROBERT



President of the French Section of the Franco-British Council.

Born 1921 in Paris. Deported by the Germans to Czechoslovakia. Studied law at the University of Paris. Journalist on various Socialist papers. Cabinet of the Junior Minister for Information 1956-57; and the Minister for Overseas Territories 1957. Director General of the Office de Coopération Radiophonique 1962-63. Director of education television in the Thomson Houston Company since 1964. Member of the Management Committee of the Socialist Party since 1963. Mayor of Suresnes 1965-83. Conseiller Général for Suresnes since 1967. PS National Secretary for International Relations 1971-79. PS Senator for Hauts-de-Seine since 1977. President of the French Section of the Franco-British Council since 1981.

Pontillon is agreeable and well-disposed, but notably pleased with himself. As PS National Secretary for International Relations he was regarded as being on the right of the party on account of his "Atlanticist" views and contacts with the Social Democratic Parties of Northern Europe. He no longer carries much weight in the Party, particularly since the departure of Mauroy, to whom he remains close.

Married. One son. His wife, who is a former member of the Executive Bureau of the PS, was Mauroy's Private Secretary at the Matignon. Both Pontillons speak good English.



ZULUETA, Sir Philip de

Chairman, British Section, Franco-British Council since 1981.

Born 1925. New College, Oxford (MA). Welsh Guards (1943-47). Foreign Service 1949. Moscow 1950-52. Private Secretary to successive Prime Ministers (Lord Avon, Mr MacMillan, Sir A Douglas-Home) 1955-64. Assistant Secretary, HM Treasury, 1962. Resigned from Foreign Service, 1964. Director, subsequently Chief Executive and Chairman, Hill Samuel 1965-81. Chairman Tanks Consolidated Investments Ltd, since 1983.

Member of FBC since its inception in 1972. Former member of BBC Advisory Council. Member of CBI Council and Director of a number of industrial and financial companies.

Married, two children.

26 November 1984

WITH COMPLIMENTS

Babcock International plc

From: The Rt.Hon. Sir Frank Cooper GCB CMG

Cleveland House,
St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LN
Telephone: 01-930 9766 Telex: 884151/2/3
Telegrams: Babcock London Telex SE1
Cables: Babcock London SE1

Charles CD

Interesting in relation to Avignon.

Have we had any other reports of
Giscard's keynote speech in Brussels?

FRB 27.11

From: The Rt. Hon. Sir Frank Cooper GCB CMG

CLEVELAND HOUSE

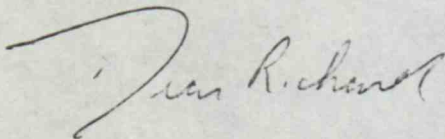
ST. JAMES'S SQUARE

LONDON SW1Y 4LN

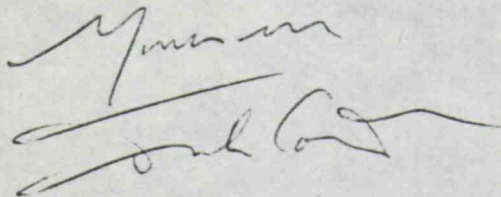
01-930 9766

Richard Mottram Esq
Ministry of Defence (PS to S of S)
Whitehall
London S.W.1.

26 November 1984



You may like to have a copy (without
enclosures) of the enclosed. A copy
goes also to Robin Butler at No. 10.



FRANK COOPER

Enc.

CLEVELAND HOUSE
St. James's Square
London SW1Y 4LN

Sir Clive Whitmore KCB CVO
Ministry of Defence (PUS)
Whitehall
London S.W.1.

26 November 1984

John Chace

From Thursday to Saturday last week I went to Brussels for the Annual Conference of the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) Annual Conference. They had asked me to give a paper on Armaments Collaboration (Kenneth Macdonald has a copy). The Joint Chairmen were Leo Tindermans and Jean Francois-Poncet. Garrett Fitzgerald spoke at the opening dinner. There was a number of present and past European politicians present (none British), plus professional conference goers, academics, people from the Commission etc., a few industrialists and some non-Europeans.

The keynote address was given by Valery Giscard d'Estaing. I enclose his text. The last couple of pages concern his defence propositions - the need for a European defence identity; regular meetings of Defence Ministers and Chiefs of Staff; a joint defence research programme including a surveillance satellite; a joint (France, Italy, Britain) intervention force; agreement between France and Britain on a common approach to their nuclear forces with prior Franco-German consultation; then a European strategic nuclear force which would require political union of some kind.

A good deal of rubbish - unexplained! In general the French in particular were pushing hard for closer European Defence collaboration both in terms of policy (i.e. a European identity) and armaments. On the latter they eventually accepted - I think - that the right forum was the IEPG. They would have wished it to be Western Union (WEU).

I think we needed to be very careful about WEU. Quite a number of the French wanted to go back to the 1950's. There were some quite strong passages of arms when I pointed out that both the Northern and Southern Flanks were very important, that WEU mishandled could become divisive, and that we should not present the Soviets with opportunities to neutralise the Northern Flank countries and cause even more trouble than exists already in the South. Francois-Poncet was at one time talking about inviting other countries being asked later to join WEU provided they passed tests such as willingness to have nuclear weapons on their territory. The French accepted that the WEU defence obligations were automatic though rejecting NATO automaticity.

Sir Clive Whitmore KCB CVO

26 November 1984

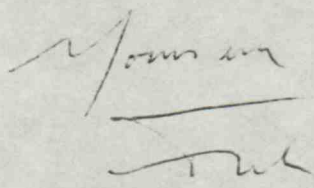
We are back at the old question of "What is Europe" and some of the French re-writing history. One reason is the genuine French popular support for Europe and another put forward was WEU represents a means of changing French defence policies. Franco-German defence relationships (particularly nuclear) are quite difficult and the French are trying to con the Germans to pay for better French conventional forces.

There is also the fact that the French are in real resource trouble over the weapons programme (should we not make more of the fall from grace of their defence industry? e.g. the large losses of Aerospatiale and the vast increase in borrowings). Incidentally, I found a marvellous quote from Hernu speaking recently to the Association of European Aerospace Contractors when he said - speaking about collaboration and the European Fighter Aircraft "...one must be willing and vigilant. Willing to have European co-operation, and at the same time vigilant on behalf of our industry". I read it out!

The risk is that the search for a European identity and the pressure in favour of WEU could cause divisions and disunity and produce opportunities for the USSR on both Flanks.

For the rest there was much said about the need for the reform of the Community (strengthening the role of the President, majority voting etc.); 1985 to be the year of the ECU; tackling unemployment; reforming industry; and lifting discussion to a higher plane.

A copy goes to Antony Acland. No reply needed. It will be interesting to see what happens at Avignon this weekend.



FRANK COOPER

FC/yh

CONFIDENTIAL



bc PC

58

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT

Thank you for your minute about your talk with the French Ambassador. The Prime Minister will want to know the views of the Home Secretary and the Trade and Industry Secretary on whether they should attend or, in the case of Mr. Tebbit, be represented.

I am copying this minute to Mr. Budd in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

(C.D. POWELL)
15 November 1984

JKRAMD

CST.



Ref. A084/3018

MR POWELL

Anglo-French Summit

During the course of a farewell visit this afternoon, the French Ambassador referred briefly to arrangements for the Anglo-French Summit, and in particular to Ministerial attendance.

2. He said that he understood that the Prime Minister would be accompanied by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Minister of Agriculture. He had heard that the Secretary of State for Energy might also be in the party. He enquired about a representative of the Department of Trade and Industry. I said that I thought that, in the absence of Mr Tebbit, either Mr Lamont or Mr Channon might come. The Ambassador clearly hoped that the Minister for Trade would come: he thought that Madame Cresson would welcome exchanges with her counterpart.

3. The Ambassador said that he had heard that the Home Secretary might come. I said that it might well be useful that the Home Secretary should discuss with the Minister for the Interior questions of counter-terrorism. The Ambassador suggested that, if the Home Secretary did come, it would be impossible to avoid some discussion of the contretemps between the two police services at the time of President Mitterrand's State Visit. The Ambassador then went into a long speech, at the conclusion of which he said that, as a result of his own investigation and discussions of the matter, he had come to the conclusion that one could not take as completely truthful either police service's account of the matter. Clearly, however, feelings had run high on both sides. If the Home Secretary came, he hoped that it would be possible to deal with this subject briefly by saying that there had been genuine misunderstandings between the two police services,



and that now what was important was to put those misunderstandings into the past and to concentrate on improving relations between the two police services in the pursuit of co-operation against international crime and terrorism.

4. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Private Secretary to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of the letters 'R' and 'A' joined together in a stylized, cursive manner.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

13 November 1984

RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 November 1984

Franco-British Council

Thank you for your letter of 9 November about the arrangements for the Franco-British Council meeting in Avignon.

The Prime Minister will wish to leave Paris as soon as feasible after the end of the Summit (I am not clear whether the press conference is likely to be before or after lunch). Certainly she would not wish to arrive at Orange later than 1800 hours.

The Prime Minister would be happy to meet M. Fabius in Avignon if there is not a suitable occasion to do so in Paris.

The Prime Minister's party from Paris to Avignon will consist of me, Bernard Ingham, one Duty Clerk, one PA

There should therefore be room for Sir J. Fretwell.

I agree that there will be no need for Mr. Lederer to come to Avignon.

TEMPORARILY RETAINED J. Gray 29/9/2016
THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

(C.D. Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 November, 1984

Dear Charles,

Franco-British Council Conference

We have been giving thought to transport and accommodation arrangements for the Prime Minister's visit to Avignon to address the Franco-British Council Conference on Friday 30 November, about which you wrote on 15 October.

We have suggested to the French that the Summit meeting should end after lunch on the Friday, and expect them to agree. We therefore think it would be best, as suggested in Roger Bone's letter of 8 June, to take a late afternoon flight from Paris to the military airfield at Orange. The flight would take 1 hr and 10 mins in an HS125.

I suggest that, in order to allow some time to change before dinner, (which is timed to start with a reception at 2000 hrs) the Prime Minister should aim to arrive at Orange by 1800.

The French have confirmed to us that M. Fabius will attend the dinner. It is possible that he may suggest a meeting at Avignon beforehand, if the two Prime Ministers have not had an opportunity for private conversation during the Summit. If this is confirmed we would recommend that the Prime Minister agree and arrive at Orange, if necessary, a little earlier.

The dinner will take place at the Palais des Papes. You told me in your letter of 15 October that the Prime Minister would accept the Prefet's invitation to stay the night. We have asked for a Security Officer and a Private Secretary also to be accommodated at the Prefecture - any other members of the Party will be booked into a nearby hotel.

I enclose the conference programme and provisional lists of British and French delegates. Owing to the pressure of his other commitments Sir Geoffrey is not planning to attend the Conference. However Mr Hurd, Mr King, Mr Rees and Lady Young are planning to attend - Mr Hurd will make a speech at the Saturday evening dinner - and it is likely that they will all be present on the Friday evening.

/You

RESTRICTED



You said that the Prime Minister would use an HS125 for the journey from Paris to Avignon. We would hope that there would be room in this for Sir John Fretwell; he will have to stay in Paris until the conclusion of the Summit meeting and would find it difficult to arrive in Avignon in time to be available before the dinner by any means other than the Prime Minister's aircraft. There will however be a few places available on the special flight arranged from Paris for the French delegation to the conference, for those who will not be required in Paris later than 10 am on the Friday morning; I would be grateful if you could let me know if anyone in the Prime Minister's party wishes to travel on this flight.

M. Fabius speaks good English and there will be interpreters available at the dinner to translate the speeches and assist as needed. The Prime Minister may therefore feel that Mr Lederer need not accompany her to Avignon.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

CONFERENCE D'AVIGNON, 30 NOVEMBRE - 2 DECEMBRE 1984

PROJET DE PROGRAMME (15.6.84)

VENDREDI 30 NOVEMBRE

entre
12.00 et 13.00

Arrivée de la délégation française et
britannique à l'aéroport de Marseille-
Marignane

Déjeuner à l'aéroport (les 2 délégations
réunies)

Départ en cars pour Avignon (trajet 1 h.)
(1 ou 2 cars par hôtel)

Installation dans les 3 hôtels

entre
16.00 et 17.00

SEANCE PLENIERE D'OUVERTURE:
Centre de congrès du Palais des Papes,
salle du conclave

Retour vers les hôtels

20.00

Réception
Dîner officiel en présence des deux Premier
Ministres
salle du consistoire (Palais des Papes)
tenue de soirée

SAMEDI 1er DECEMBRE

9.00

Séance de travail des 4 commissions,
Centre de congrès du Palais des Papes

Pause

Séance de travail

12.30

Déjeuner sur place,
salle de la grande audience

Reprise des séances de travail

Pause

Retour vers les hôtels

Dîner,
Palais des Papes, la grande audience
ou
Chateâuneuf du Pape

../...

DIMANCHE 2 DECEMBRE

10.00

à

12.00

SEANCE PLENIERE DE CLOTURE:
centre de congrès du Palais des Papes,
salle du Conclave

Départ en cars pour la Chartreuse de Villeneuve
lez-Avignon

Déjeuner à la Chartreuse
(visite avant ou après le repas)

Départ en cars pour l'aéroport de Marseille-
Marignane (trajet 1h.)

vers 17.00

Départ des deux délégations

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

BRITISH DELEGATION

SECURITY - COMMITTEE I

Air Chief Marshal Sir John AIKEN, KCB

Field Marshal the Rt Hon the Lord CARVER, GCB, CBE, DSO*, MC

The Rt Hon Sir Frank COOPER, GCB, CMG

Admiral Sir James EBERLE, KCB, GCB

Mr Andrew FAULDS, MP

Major General FURSDON, CBE, MBE, KStJ

Mr Nigel HAWKES

[~~Sir J. Nicholas HENDERSON, GCMG~~ - Committee Chairman]

Mr Alistair HORNE

Prof. Michael HOWARD, CBE, MC

Professor Douglas JOHNSON

Sir Anthony MEYER, MP

Mr John ROPER

Mr George WALDEN, CMG, MP

12.9.84

Total : 14

Pending: ~~Mr Robin Cook, MP~~

The Rt Hon Denis Healey, CH, MBE, MP - now to be

26th September, 1984

Committee Chairman

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL - AVIGNON CONFERENCE

BRITISH DELEGATION

Committee II - Economic Cooperation

Sir Campbell ADAMSON

Mr David BASNETT

Mr Christopher BENJAMIN

Mr John de COURCY LING

Mr Michael DENNY

Mr Kenneth EDWARDS, MBE

Lord EZRA of Horsham, MBE Committee Chairman

Sir Arnold HALL

Mr Dominick HARROD

Lord McALPINE of West Green

Mr John RAISMAN, CBE

Mr Edward RAYNE, CVO

The Rt Hon Peter REES, QC, MP

Dr Andrew ROBINSON

Sir Maldwyn THOMAS

26.9.84

Total : 15

Pending: 1 (Lord Chandos) /

26.9.84

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL - AVIGNON CONFERENCE

BRITISH DELEGATION

Committee III - "Social Affairs"

The Rt Hon the Lord BALFOUR of Burléigh

Mr John CASSELS, CB

Sir Robin DAY

Prof. Geoffrey DRAIN, CBE - Committee Rapporteur

Mr Hugh DYKES, MP

Prof. A A GIBB

Mr Geoffrey GOODMAN

Mr David LEA, OBE

Lrd McCARTHY of Headington

The Rt Hon Baroness SEROTA, JP

Lord STRABOLGI

Lady TOMKINS

26.9.84

Total: 12

Pending: 2 (Mr Geoffrey Holland
The Rt Hon Tom King, MP)

26.9.84

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL - AVIGNON CONFERENCE

BRITISH DELEGATION

Committee IV - "Grassroots"

Mr J G D. BLAKELY

Committee Rapporteur

Mr Roderick CAVALIERO

Mr Paul HODGSON

The Rt Hon Douglas HURD, MP

Mr Fred JARVIS

Mrs Ann KEAST

Prof. J LAIDLAW

Prof. MacCABE

Mr Andrew MANGO

Councillor D W MOBBS

Mr Edward MORTIMER

Mr Michael NEALE

The Lord POLWARTH, TD, DL

Miss Rose de WEND FENTON

Mrs Patricia WILLIAMS

26.9.84

Total: 15

Pending: 1 (Mr Nicholas Serota)

Letter, 10/2 from
Mr. Serota

Mr. Serota
1) pl. copy to Mr
Clarke.

- by 4.x
2) Miss Hunt to see

3) PA.
GOT 5/10.

CONFERENCE D'AVIGNON

30 NOVEMBRE - 2 DECEMBRE 1984

DELEGATION FRANCAISE (28.9.84)

M. Maurice ALLEGRE 3	Directeur du développement scientifique et technologique et de l'innovation Ministère de l'Industrie et de la Recherche
M. Henri BAQUIAST	Directeur de la DREE (Direction des Relations Economiques Extérieures)
M. Thierry de BEAUCE	Directeur des Relations Internationales au groupe Elf Aquitaine
M. François BEDARIDA	Directeur de l'Institut d'histoire du temps présent (CNRS)
Mme Pierre BEYTOUT	Président-directeur général du journal Les Echos
M. Michel BOSCHER	Commissaire-priseur, membre du Conseil franco-britannique
M. Raymond BOURGINE	Sénateur de Paris
M. Léon BRESSLER	Président du Directoire de la Midland Bank S.A. à Paris
M. Gérard CALDERON	Président de Paris Studios Billancourt
Mme Monica CHARLOT 4	Directeur de la Maison Française d'Oxford
M. Adolphe CHALVIN	Sénateur du Val d'Oise, membre du Conseil franco-britannique
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M. François CROUZET

Professeur d'histoire de l'Europe du Nord
à l'Université de Paris-Sorbonne, Membre
du Conseil franco-britannique

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Député de la Manche, Président de la Commission
de la Défense Nationale et des Forces Armées

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Ecrivain, membre du Conseil franco-britannique

M. Bernard DELAPALME

Directeur Recherche, Développement et
Innovation, société Nationale Elf Aquitaine

M. Henri DELISLE

Député du Calvados, Président du groupe
d'amitié France-Grande-Bretagne à l'Assemblée
Nationale, Membre du Conseil franco-britannique

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Secrétaire du Conseil franco-britannique,
section française

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Directeur général des Télécommunications,
Ministère des PTT

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Président-directeur général de la Banque
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des banques; Trésorier du Conseil franco-
britannique, section française

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sion des finances du Conseil Général

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des Affaires Etrangères, Assemblée Nationale

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Député de Loire Atlantique, Président de
la Commission des Affaires Culturelles,
familiales et sociales

M. André FONTAINE 2

Rédacteur en Chef, Le Monde

M. Jean-Pierre FOURCADE

Ancien Ministre, Sénateur des Hauts-de-Seine

M. Claude FREJACQUES

Président du Centre National de la Recherche
Scientifique, membre de l'Institut

Général FRICAUD-CHAGNAUD 1

Président, Fondation pour les Etudes de
Défense Nationale, Rapporteur Commission 1

M. Jean GATTEGNO

Directeur du Livre et de la Lecture,
Ministère de la Culture

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M. Marius-François GUYARD 4	Professeur à la Sorbonne, ancien Recteur de l'Académie de Lyon, Membre du Conseil franco-britannique
M. Jean GUYOT	Associé-gérant de la Banque Lazard Frères
M. Raymond HAMELIN	Directeur de l'Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Lyon, membre du Conseil franco-britannique
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M. Jean MARIN	Ancien Président-directeur-général de l'Agence France Presse, Vice-Président de l'Association des Français Libres, Membre du Conseil franco-britannique
M. Gabriel MIGNOT	Délégué à l'emploi, Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Solidarité Nationale
Général MITTERRAND	Ancien président de la SNIAS, Président du GIFAS (Groupement des Industries Françaises Aéronautiques et Spatiales)
M. Jérôme MONOD	Président-Directeur-général de la Société Lyonnaise des eaux, membre du Conseil franco-britannique
M. Thierry de MONTBRIAL	Directeur de l'Institut français des Relations Internationales (IFRI)
M. Henri PIGEAT	Président-Directeur Général de l'Agence France Presse

M. Robert PONTILLON

Sénateur des Hauts-de-Seine, Président
du Conseil franco-britannique, section français

M. Jean-Pierre RABAUULT

Directeur du groupe Planification et d'Etudes
Stratégiques, Ministère de la Défense

M. Jacques RIGAUD

Conseiller d'Etat, Administrateur délégué
de la Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Télédif-
fusion, membre du Conseil franco-britannique,
Président de la Commission 4

M. François de ROSE

Ambassadeur de France

M. Joël de ROSNAY

Conseiller du Directeur pour les Relations
Industrielles, Institut Pasteur

M. Jean SAINT-GEOURS 3

Président du Crédit National

M. Léon SFEZ

Président du Conseil National de la Com-
munication Audiovisuelle

M. Jean-Marc SIMON

Directeur général d'Europ Assistance

M. Dominique TADDEI

Député du Vaucluse

M. Jean TEILLAC

Haut-Commissaire à l'Energie Atomique

M. Alain VERNAY 2

Directeur du supplément économique et finan-
cier, Le Figaro, membre du Conseil franco-
britannique, membre du Club franco-japonais

M. Robert WIEDER

Secrétaire général de France-Grande-Bretagne

M. Olivier WORMSER 1

Ambassadeur de France, Gouverneur honoraire
de la Banque de France, Membre de l'Institut



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 October 1984

Overseas Travel by the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister proposes to make the following overseas journeys:-

2 November 1984	Germany, to attend an Anglo-German Summit
29 November-1 December	<u>France</u> , for Anglo-French bilateral talks and a Franco-British Council meeting
3-4 December	Ireland, to attend a European Council meeting.

I should be grateful if you would seek The Queen's permission for the Prime Minister to be absent from the country on the days listed above

C.D. POWELL

Robert Fellowes, Esq., MVO.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 October, 1984

Anglo-French Summit, Paris; Franco-British Council, Avignon

29 November - 2 December

Thank you for your letter of 11 October.

I agree that it would be helpful for two Conference Officers to assist the Embassy in Paris and the authorities in Avignon.

I should say that I have also had some discussion of the Avignon part of the visit with Sir Philip de Zulueta of the Franco-British Council. I understand that he has made a reconnaissance of Avignon with the Consul-General ~~of~~ in Marseilles. On the basis of his report, the Prime Minister has agreed to accept the Préfet's invitation to stay the night in Avignon, returning to London early the next morning. The Prime Minister therefore intends to leave Paris in an HS 125 with a very small party for the visit to Avignon, leaving the main body of those attending the Anglo-French Summit to return to London in the Andover.

C. D. POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



273 3043 C C S H
PC

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 October 1984

Dear Charles,

Anglo-French Summit, Paris; Franco-British Council, Avignon
29 November - 2 December

The administrative arrangements for the Anglo-French Summit in Paris followed by the Franco-British Council meeting in Avignon from 29 November to 2 December are likely to be complicated, given that there will be overnight stops in both places, and Private Offices and communications arrangements to organise.

We propose therefore that two Conference Officers should travel out from London to assist the Embassy in Paris, one then going on to Avignon. The Embassy have welcomed the suggestion.

I should be grateful for confirmation that you agree. The Conference Officers would be Pat Noble and Bette Davis.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

PRIME MINISTER

FRANCO/BRITISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE

You have agreed to address the Franco/British Council Dinner in Avignon on Friday, 30 November, following straight on from the Anglo/French Summit. The question arises whether you want to spend the night in Avignon after the dinner. I think you should do so, since the dinner is unlikely to end much before 1130 p.m. You could then fly back early on the Saturday morning to London (and set out again for the Dublin European Council on the Sunday evening or Monday morning).

Sir Philip de Zulueta and the Consul in Marseilles have done a reconnaissance at Avignon and recommend that you accept an invitation from the local Prefet to spend the night. Apparently he has a very fine house in the centre of Avignon with room for a Private Secretary and detective.

Agree to spend the night and accept the hospitality of the Prefet?

C.D.D.

Yes not

10 October 1984

Written to FCO & Sir
P. de Zulueta informed.

C.D.P.
15/10.



Agreed to take
Mrs. Dennis

CM

10 DOWNING STREET

Charles -

Ann Hutchinson rang with a very long message for you about Interpreters.

Mrs Fairweather, who you discussed, is thought to be excellent, being fluent in several languages. She is recommended by Michael Ballis. Her PV clearance has not yet been completed however. (She is, by the way, 42 years old).

Mrs M. Dennis (65) is an alternative who has been PV'd. She has been employed in ministerial translation since 1979 and is thought to be very good. She did the ministerial interpretation at the Anglo-French summit of October 1983, and interpreted for the PM when she met Klibi in February 1984.

Another alternative is Mrs Taylor (56) who is also very good, is PV'd, and has been involved in ministerial interpretation since 1979. She interpreted for the PM during the PM of Guinea's courtesy call.

Mrs Fairweather seems to be Ann Hutchinson's no 1 choice (I got the impression, at least.). To have no security reservations about her, though her availability is in question.

CS 24/9

Franco-British Council BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

7th September, 1984.

C.D. Powell, Esq.,
Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Handwritten notes:
CR
DB } to note.
Duns 10/9
CDP 10/9

Dear Powell,

** I enclose a copy of a letter which I have just received from Senateur Pontillon. From this you will see that Monsieur Fabius has confirmed that he will take Monsieur Mauroy's place at the dinner on November 30. It is also helpful to know that Monsieur Cheysson is planning to come on the Saturday and I therefore of course hope very much that Sir Geoffrey will be able to come too and I am writing to him.

Yours sincerely

Philip de Zulueta

*P.S. I hope that we may meet soon. I
heard very kind things about you the
other day from Anthony Berry. PD*

07 SEP 1984

COPY TO: C.D. Powell, Esq.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Paris, le 3 septembre 1984

Sir Philip de ZULUETA
6, John Street
London WC1N 2ES

Ch. Philz

Je suis heureux de vous faire savoir que le Premier Ministre, M. Laurent Fabius, a bien voulu me faire savoir qu'il acceptait de présider avec Mme Margaret Thatcher le dîner du vendredi 30 novembre en Avignon.

M. Claude Cheysson m'a également confirmé par lettre qu'il présiderait le dîner du samedi 1er décembre et y ferait une allocution. Sans-doute souhaitez-vous porter cette nouvelle à la connaissance de Sir Geoffrey Howe. J'espère vivement qu'il lui sera dès lors possible de nous confirmer sa venue en Avignon.

*By Amicalment à vous
A bientôt*


Robert PONTILLON

France 6183 Franco British
Council.

C.F. pds.

Franco-British Council **BRITISH SECTION**

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

20th June, 1984.

C.D. Powell, Esq.,
Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

*sub
25/6*

Dear Powell,

BF.

Many thanks for your letter of June 18 with the good news that the Prime Minister can accept the Franco British Council's invitation for Friday 30 November.

I quite understand that you cannot yet tell us precisely what the travelling arrangements will be but of course this can all be settled nearer the time.

I look forward to meeting you.

*Yours sincerely,
Philip de Zulueta*

FRANCE: Franco-British Council
June 83

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be sure p.c.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 June 1984

Franco-British Council

You wrote to John Coles on 8 June about the Franco-British Council's invitation to the Prime Minister to address their Conference at Avignon on 30 November and make a speech.

The Prime Minister proposes to accept the invitation, on the understanding that the French Prime Minister will also attend. I shall be informing Sir Philip de Zulueta of this.

It is likely that the Prime Minister will wish to speak on a subject other than Franco-British relations. I shall let you know her choice of subject nearer the time.

We shall need to consider transport arrangements and whether the Prime Minister should accept the Prefet's offer of hospitality.

C.D. POWELL

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED



Je vsc
bc Sir P.C.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 June 1984

You wrote to my predecessor, John Coles, on 14 May concerning the Prime Minister's attendance at the meeting of the Franco-British Council in Avignon on Friday 30 November.

The Prime Minister would in principle be happy to accept an invitation to attend the Council on that date, on the understanding that the French Prime Minister would also attend. She also agrees to deliver a speech at dinner that evening.

It has not yet been possible to discuss the transport and accommodation arrangements. I am advised that the military airport at Orange is likely to be the most suitable for the Prime Minister's aircraft. I think it highly likely that she will wish to spend the night in Avignon, returning to the UK the following morning. But perhaps I could be in touch with you about the details rather nearer the time.

C.D. POWELL

Sir Philip de Zulueta

22 PC
RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 June, 1984

Prime Minister
Agree? It follows
right on from
Anglo-French Summit.
C.D. 15/6.

John Lee,

Yes

Franco-British Council

In your letter of 16 May you asked for advice on whether the Prime Minister should attend the Franco-British Council's Conference at Avignon on 30 November and make a speech.

We recommend that the Prime Minister should accept the Council's invitation. These conferences, held every two years, gather together eminent French and British people from a variety of fields including politics, business, journalism and the academic world. The Prime Minister attended the last two conferences at Bordeaux in 1980 and Edinburgh in 1982. The dinner on the opening night of the conference would provide a good opportunity for her to make a substantial speech on Franco-British relations or on another subject of her choice. Attendance on the Friday evening would seem to be the most convenient. We suggest, however, that it should be made clear that the Prime Minister's agreement to attend is made on the understanding that the French Prime Minister will attend also, as in 1982 and 1980.

You asked for advice on the questions about transport in the third paragraph of Sir Phillip's letter. We have yet to receive final confirmation from the French that the Summit will take place in Paris, and that it will end after lunch on the Friday. But assuming that it does it would probably be best for the Prime Minister to fly down to Avignon on the Friday afternoon. According to our Embassy in Paris, the most convenient airfield to use would be the military one at Orange, some 30 kilometres north of Avignon. Avignon airport itself is extremely small and would probably not be suitable for an Andover. Marseilles, as Sir Philip points out, is considerably further away.

If the Prime Minister accepts the invitation, you will also wish to consider whether the Prime Minister should accept the offer of hospitality by the local Prefect. It would have the advantage of avoiding a journey late at night at a time of year when the weather can be very unreliable.

The Foreign Secretary has, as indicated in Sir Philip's letter, received a separate letter inviting him to address the conference on the Saturday evening. He proposes to send a holding reply. It is likely that Sir Geoffrey Howe will ask another Foreign Office Minister to attend in his place, but this will depend to some extent on whether M. Cheysson (or M. Dumas) attends. He would of course be available to

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/accompany

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accompany the Prime Minister to Avignon for the Friday evening if she wished.

Two

R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

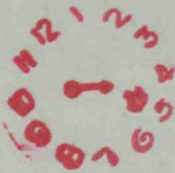
A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

France 6 183

00 JUN 1984

France / Br. Council





FILE da

cc Caroline
PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 May 1984

Franco-British Council

BC
I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received from Sir Philip de Zulueta. You will see that the organisers now envisage that the Franco-British Council will meet in Avignon from Friday 30 November to Sunday 2 December. I should be grateful for your advice on the suggestion that the Prime Minister should attend the proceedings on the evening of Friday 30 November and make a speech. I should also be grateful for advice on the questions about transport in Sir Philip's third paragraph.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ccp4

Franco-British Council

BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

A.J. Coles, Esq.,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

14th May, 1984.

Dear John,

Now that, as you kindly told me, the Franco British Summit dates in the autumn have been agreed, Senateur Pontillon was able to confirm to me over the weekend that the next main meeting of the Franco British Council will take place in Avignon from Friday November 30 to Sunday December 2.

As we have discussed, the Council, of course, very much hope that the Prime Minister and M. Mauroy will be able, as on previous occasions, to come to the Conference. Our suggestion would be that the Prime Minister should come down from Paris to Avignon in the afternoon of Friday November 30, since I believe that I am right in saying that the Summit meetings normally finish after lunch. If this would suit the Prime Minister the Council would suggest the two Prime Ministers might perhaps come to the Palais des Papes in Avignon (where the dinner and meeting will take place) at 7.45 p.m. so as to allow participants a chance to be presented before dinner at 8.30 p.m. The Council would hope that the Prime Minister would be prepared to make a speech during the dinner. Of course if the Prime Minister would prefer to come to the Conference at some later time, for example on the Saturday, the Council could easily rearrange the programme but I believe that the Friday night would seem the most sensible on the basis that the Prime Minister could then return to the U.K. for the weekend if she so wished.

I should be most grateful if you could ascertain the Prime Minister's wishes in this matter. I would also be very grateful to know whether you would expect her to fly down to Avignon (which implies not using a large aircraft) or whether she would be more likely to fly to Marseilles which allows a larger aircraft to land but is, of course, much further. Monsieur Pontillon has also asked me if the Prime Minister would be likely to wish to stay the night of Friday November 30 or whether she would return to the U.K. after dinner. We would, of course, be delighted if the former was the case and I understand the Prefect would be likely to offer hospitality.

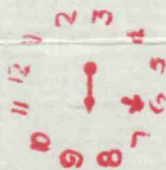
I should perhaps add that I am also going to ask whether the Foreign Secretary would be prepared to address the Conference at the dinner on Saturday evening but this, of course, would be a different operation although I suppose that the Foreign Secretary will be accompanying the Prime Minister to the Summit and so might come down from Paris with her.

*Yours ever,
Philip de Z.*

France June 83

Franco - British Council
Conference in 1984

16 MAY 1984





file

5

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 February 1984

Thank you so much for your letter of 1 February. James Hadley's note about his dinner in Lille was most interesting and you must be very pleased by M. Mauroy's remarks about the Franco-British Council.

We are still waiting to hear from the French Government about the dates of the Anglo-French Summit. They are aware of our own wishes but as they are hosts we cannot press them too much.

A. J. COLES

Sir Philip de Zulueta

67

Franco-British Council BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

CONFIDENTIAL

1st February, 1984.

A.J. Coles, Esq.,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear John,

** I attach a note written by James Hadley about a dinner given last week in Lille which I thought might interest you. In particular the remarks by M. Mauroy about Franco British relations are perhaps worth noting although I am not sure what practical effect they have!

*Yours ever,
Philip*

CONFIDENTIAL

31 JAN 1984

To : Sir Philip de Zulueta

30th January, 1984

From : James Hadley

I went to Lille for the reception and dinner given by Pierre Mauroy to celebrate the exhibition of the BBC French Service's history over the years. A most enchanting time.

The exhibition, in the main and very spacious hall of this fabulous 'art deco' town hall, was very well conceived and constructed. Plenty of video and slide shows - a mock-up of a studio c18th June 1940 - and a cinema.

When I got there, I was immediately 'press-ganged' into a joint radio interview with Pontillon, which went down very well - I think we complemented each other well.

Then Fretwell arrived and we had a few words about sundry matters. The Consul-General, Malcolm Dougal (who was a few years ago in the Commercial Section of the Embassy) was introduced. He is a lively and enthusiastic, and the important Lillois seem to like him.

Mauroy eventually arrived and inspected the exhibition. He was late, but that did not inhibit his enthusiasm, it just destroyed the time-table! Eventually, we went upstairs for a press conference etc. Mauroy was overwhelming in his praise and description of the Franco-British Council - of the representatives there present, ie. Pontillon, the Director from England and his Council colleague Paul Hodgson. Both Paul and I were almost embarrassed at the warmth of his remarks - some of which, were 'off the cuff'. The BBC got, of course, its fair share, and then Mauroy came back to the theme of the absolute necessity of good and developing Franco-British relations. About this time, Michele Cotta arrived to join in the nice words, etc, about the BBC (more of her later). Douglas Muggeridge made a very short speech in the most atrocious, but actually understandable, French (much appreciated) and presented Mauroy with a gold-plated replica of a 1940 microphone, such as were used by de Gaulle. Pontillon then made a first-rate reply on behalf of the Council.

We then had a drink and a few of us went to Mauroy's office to look at some pictures. He was completely relaxed.

Off to the restaurant. I was surprised, but immensely gratified, to find myself sitting on Mauroy's left, with Michele Cotta on his right, and Paul H on her right. Opposite us Pontillon had John Fretwell on his left, but opposite Mauroy. First-rate dinner; plenty of conversation. Mauroy told me that he was very pleased that the region chosen by the Council for its next seminar was the 'Pas de Calais' and the 'Nord' - a singular coincidence!

.../...

Sir Philip de Zulueta
30th January, 1984

It turned out that Michele Cotta has her problems, and needed Mauroy's support! He obviously likes her a lot, as do the BBC team, and this is obviously very helpful. Cotta, however, still cannot really understand the role of the IBA (George Thomson must watch out!)

Lots of informal "across the table" talk at dinner. A most successful occasion.

The following, however, are worth noting:

1. The whole dinner, reception etc was given by Mauroy and the City of Lille
2. The BBC exhibition was in the town hall itself, and thus gained prestige
3. The exhibition has another two weeks to go, and expects to attract, "inter alia" a large number of school children.
4. P. Hodgson, who has really been the 'animateur' had to explain to the nice Consul-General that it was the Franco-British Council, not the BBC, that got Mauroy to do this, and not the Embassy - this fact could, I suppose, just cause a little jealousy.
5. Fretwell was pleased to be present, and thanked Mauroy for dinner on behalf of the guests.
6. ~ BBC have worked very hard, and if you could congratulate Douglas Muggeridge (card enclosed) and his colleagues, Andrew Mango, Francois Turmel and Peter Fraenkel, this could be helpful.
7. I will, of course, thank both Mauroy and Pontillon, but a note from you as Chairman to Mauroy might be useful. He can be addressed as Monsieur le Premier Ministre et Maire, L'Hotel de Ville, Lille.
8. Finally, Paul deserves a cheery word for all his work on this. It could never have happened without the Council.

On the Saturday morning, I visited the relatively new store of Marks & Spencer. A most useful and illuminating visit. I am writing to Brian Howard.

E. R.

~~Please attend to.~~

& that we have done ✓.

A.S.C. - 21

MR COLES

AG
2
K-a..

Sir Philip de Zulueta telephoned this morning about the possibility of the Prime Minister attending a meeting of the Franco-British Council following the Anglo-French bilaterals at the end of November. He said that he had discussed dates informally with his French opposite number who understood from the Elysee that there were no insuperable obstacles to the bilaterals taking place on 30 November.

B/C
X | I undertook to pass this message on to you. He would be most grateful if you could give him a ring next Wednesday, when he returns from Belgium, about what should happen next. I think he is hoping that we will now be prepared to propose formally to the French Government that the bilaterals should take place at the end of November.

Dmb

filed 29 (am) - 30
F/S 1 Dec.

27 January 1984

RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 June 1983

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE IN 1984

Thank you for your letter of 27 June.

The Prime Minister agrees in principle that another Franco-British Council Conference should be held. She also considers that everything possible should be done to keep the cost to the taxpayer down (she has noted that it may approach £70,000).

I am copying this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury).

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NR

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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Agree in principle that another

London SW1A 2AH

Franco-British Council Conference should
be held *Yes*

27 June 1983

- and that everything possible should be
done to keep the cost to the taxpayer
down (it may approach £70,000). ? *Yes mh*

Jaw Shan,

A.S.C. 2/6.

Franco-British Council Conference in 1984

You may remember that the Prime Minister attended and spoke at the two Conferences so far organised by the Council, in Bordeaux (September 1980) and Edinburgh (May 1982). The Council are planning to hold their next Conference in the autumn of 1984 in Toulouse or Marseilles, to coincide with the Anglo/French Summit, also due in France next year. While it is far too early for the Prime Minister to give any commitment about her participation in the conference, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary wishes to seek her agreement that it should be held before the FCO endorses the Council's plans any further.

It is important for the Council to have this endorsement not only because they require HMG's full backing in organising it, but also because the bulk of the finance for the Conference comes out of an FCO grant-in-aid.

I hope the Prime Minister will agree that these Conferences serve a useful purpose in furthering the specific work of the Council, set up after The Queen's State Visit to France in 1972; in reminding senior personalities on both sides of the Channel, whatever their field of activity, of the importance of France and the UK to each other; and in publicly underlining the commitment of both countries to work for a closer Franco-British relationship. Next year is the 80th anniversary of the Entente Cordiale, and autumn 1984 would be two and a half years after the last Conference.

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The Prime Minister will remember the generous style of the Conferences both at Edinburgh and at Bordeaux. There is a feeling both within the FCO and the Quai d'Orsay that some of this might be sacrificed without loss in the interests of economy and of ensuring a more workmanlike atmosphere. However, I fear that some dazzle will remain necessary to attract the participants we would like.

We have yet to work out the financial aspects of the Conference but it would be very useful to know that the Prime Minister is behind us as we do so. The cost to the taxpayer is not yet certain, but may approach £70,000: we shall of course do whatever we can to hold the cost to the lowest possible level.

Sir Philip de Zulueta, Chairman of the British Section of the Council, may also write direct to the Prime Minister on this subject at some stage.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Kerr at the Treasury.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R B Bone'.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

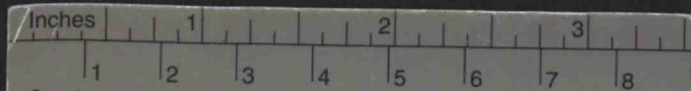
A J Coles Esq
Number 10 Downing Street

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Grey Scale #13



A 1 2 3 4 5 6 M 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 B 17 18 19



Centimetres

Colour Chart #13

Blue

Cyan

Green

Yellow

