

11.11.
TALK BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARY AT 0845 ON 1 MAY 1980

Fr. Pines

PM: Sorry to bother you, Malcolm Fraser's coming through about a quarter to nine and he wants to discuss the letter he has written to us and to Helmut and to Giscard and to Carter about possible summits. The line I propose to take is that we all met in Luxembourg and in particular the three people concerned, I think I can let him know that, and that your're going to Washington this weekend and that I think we ought to wait before taking any further action. There was a certain amount of discussion about a possible summit but at the moment it was not felt the time was ripe in any way for a meeting in June.

FCS: Yes unfortunately of course he doesn't mind that does he, he doesn't mind not being in on ...

PM: Well, he can't mind can he?

FCS: No he doesn't. But in this letter he was quite sensible about it.

PM: Yes, yes. But is there anything else one can say. There was a certain amount of desultory conversation about a Summit at breakfast, Peter, do you remember? But it certainly didn't meet with any warmth from Giscard.

FCS: I don't think anybody thought it was right, the right time. I would have thought what you want to say was absolutely right. That the three had a talk and that we also discussed Schmidt going over. I think it's worth saying that.

PM: Going over, what, to Carter?

FCS: To Moscow.

PM: To Moscow, yes.

FCS: And that he apparently is going to do that but realises it's rather tricky. I'm going over there and then we're going to meet

in June. But before then the four Foreign Ministers will be in touch both in NATO and at the Austrian Neutrality Treaty things in a fortnight's time.

PM: Oh, I had forgotten that. When's the NATO thing?

FCS: 14th.

PM: The NATO, what, 14 May. Then we're all meeting on the 17th of May in Naples.

FCS: No, I mean, that's with the Americans on the 14th.

PM: Yours on the 14th?

FCS: Yeah. And then on the 15th the four Foreign Ministers will be in Vienna and we are probably going to meet Gromyko there. And on the 17th the Nine meet again. So I think you can tell him there's a hell of a lot going on. But what he's worried about I think is the Summit. You know, he wants Heads of State and Heads of Government. And I think really you've got to put him off because we're meeting in June and we're all preparing the ground before then with all these other meetings.

PM: What's the one on the 14th May?

FCS: NATO. Do you remember he blew it up to include Foreign Ministers.

PM: But that's the one in Turkey - is that the one in Turkey?

FCS: No, Turkey's after that.

PM: Turkey's after.

FCS: That's in June, Turkey.

PM: And the NATO in Brussels.

FCS: So that we shall have the opportunity of seeing, the four meeting in Brussels. Also in Vienna the next day, either one or

the other. Also there are all the other contacts I've been talking about.

PM: Yes. Peter, I do think that there's getting a certain amount of hysteria about lack of consultations.

FCS: Oh, there is. I had a real go yesterday evening about consultation with the department and what we think is that there's too much.

PM: Well, yes. It seems to me that people are dashing in and about the whole time ...

FCS: But it's at the wrong level.

PM: without very much effect. Yes.

FCS: And what we really want is that quadripartite thing and what we decided yesterday, you know in light of your minute, that the quadripartite meeting which is about foreign affairs, ought to be, we may have to make it a little more bureaucratic but, I mean, whoever they want to appoint it is their business. But that we do it on the basis that Michael and Robert go when necessary but it's the Foreign Office because it's foreign affairs. They can have who they like. But I think we've got that more or less sorted out now and I think that they will be meeting, you see, at political director level, I mean whoever it is. But Julian Bullard, Aaron in their case not Vest will also be meeting in the middle of May and then we shall have a quadripartite discussion in Vienna and so it's all leading up to quite a sensible thing for Venice. Although of course there'll have to be a sort of, the seven will have to discuss it before then. As long as the four have got it sewn up it doesn't matter.

PM: Who's going to be at the Austrian, signing the signature at the 20th anniversary of the Austrian ...?

FCS: Well the three powers that are concerned with it, or four powers that are concerned with it, I suppose, are Russia, Austria, France and Britain and America.

PM: But not Germany of course.

FCS: The Germans have been asked. And so there will be an opportunity there.

PM: Yes, all right. Fine. So I just discourage him from any further.

FCS: Well, I think soothe him and say we've got it very much in mind, what a good idea, we've been thinkina about it, he's quite right, all that stuff.

PM: Yes, all right. OK, Peter, thank you. Bye.