

Ref. A09622

MR. STOWE

Prime Minister
Agree? *6/21*
24/5

Prime Minister's Visit to Paris

My minute of yesterday's date sought the Prime Minister's wishes on the arrangements for her visit to Paris on 5th June. This minute seeks her agreement to proposals for the objectives and the briefing for the visit. The objectives, as approved by the Prime Minister, will provide the basis for the briefs, in particular the Steering Brief.

The question of an agenda has not been discussed with the French, who usually prefer not to have a detailed agenda for such talks. In any event I doubt if either the Prime Minister or the President would wish to feel in any way circumscribed for an occasion which is essentially one for them to establish a personal rapport and understanding of each other's approaches on matters of mutual concern rather than an occasion for transacting business.

We would however expect the discussion to cover the following topics:

I. European Questions

- (a) Budget/convergence
- (b) Common Agricultural Policy
- (c) European Monetary System
- (d) Common Fisheries Policy
- (e) Community institutions
- (f) Euratom and non-proliferation

II. Current International Problems

- (a) Defence and arms control issues (in particular SALT, MBFR, TNF/Grey areas; the French proposal for a European disarmament conference)
- (b) East-West relations (including CSCE and relations with China)
- (c) International economic and monetary questions
- (d) International energy questions
- (e) Africa (including Rhodesia)
- (f) Arab-Israel (including Lebanon)

III. Bilateral Questions

- (a) Defence collaboration
- (b) Industrial collaboration
- (c) Civil nuclear collaboration
- (d) The Fontevraud Conference

— Against this background I attach draft objectives for the visit. I also
— attach a list of the briefs that might be prepared in the usual form. In addition
a separate brief would be prepared on defence nuclear matters.

John Hunt

(John Hunt)

23rd May, 1979



ANNEX A

UK OBJECTIVES

1. To impress upon President Giscard the great importance which the new Government in London attaches to relations with France, building on the warm messages already conveyed through HM Ambassador in Paris.
2. To convince President Giscard of the Government's determination to turn the British economy round so that Britain can make its proper contribution to world affairs.
3. To convince the French of the Government's positive attitude towards the Community; to explore prospects for cooperation on EEC business between the two Governments; and to exchange views on the future of the Community including the development of its institutions. At the same time, to persuade the French of the justice and urgency of the Government's case on reform of the Community budget, and the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy.
4. To compare notes with the French about the prospects for the Tokyo Summit.
5. To exchange views on the international energy situation prior to Tokyo and on community energy matters; and to consider the prospects for useful contacts with OPEC producers.
6. To assess the prospects for East/West relations including the military balance and arms control negotiations with particular reference to SALT, the "Grey Areas", MBFR, the French proposal for a European disarmament conference, the Madrid CSCE review conference and China.



7. To explain our approach on Rhodesia and enlist the French Government's support.

8. To stress the importance the UK attaches to France, the US and the UK taking a common line on demands in the UN Security Council for sanctions against South Africa over Namibia.

9. To exchange views on the situation in the Middle East and to assess the possibilities for action by the Nine.


10. To review progress in the promotion of industrial collaboration between Britain and France, including joint defence projects and in the civil nuclear field; and to explore with the French the prospects for British investment.



ANNEX B

FRENCH OBJECTIVES

1. To enhance President Giscard's prestige before the European Elections in France by enabling him, while France holds the Presidency, to be the first to welcome the new British Prime Minister to "his" Europe.
2. To see how far the new British Government's positions chime in with various policy lines to which the French Government attaches importance, eg the way in which Community institutions should evolve, the authority they should have, and the eventual shape of an enlarged Community.
3. To establish how negotiable the UK position is likely to be on those Community questions where the intention of defending British interests with vigour has already been stated; namely, the budget and convergence, the CAP and fisheries.
4. To see how far the British Government is likely to adopt positions outside the Europe of the Nine which might affect French interests, particularly over Rhodesia, East/West relations, relations with the United States, the defence/disarmament complex (with special reference to nuclear and non-proliferation aspects) and President Giscard's proposed special programme for Africa.
5. To re-establish a good working relationship with the British Government at the highest level in the general interest of ensuring that the Franco-British relationship (like the Franco-German, Franco-Soviet and Franco-US relationships) makes the best contribution possible to the Giscardian design for France-in-Europe.



List of Briefs

1. Steering Brief
2. European Community Affairs
3. Prospects for the Tokyo Summit
4. Defence and arms control (in particular
SALT, Grey Areas, and a European
Disarmament Conference)
5. East-West relations, including relations
with China
6. International energy questions
7. Africa (including Rhodesia)
8. Middle East
9. Industrial (including civil nuclear) and defence
equipment collaboration
10. French internal political and economic scene
11. United Kingdom economy