



PM/80/50

PRIME MINISTER

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Do you agree the general approach? If  
so we could decide on the precise composition of the  
two parties a little nearer the time.

(1)  
Yes not

Am - 7/7

Anglo-French and Anglo-German Consultations

1. The Anglo-French and Anglo-German Summit meetings are due in September and November respectively and, with the Summer Recess approaching, it is perhaps not too early to start thinking about the form they should take. They are both 'away' fixtures and the wishes of your hosts will in the end prevail. The French and Germans have an elaborate pattern for their own periodic meetings under the Franco-German Treaty. Significant advantages have been derived on both sides from having a format which obliges departments to try to produce results for their Ministers to report to the periodic meetings of Heads of Government. The Germans will not start thinking seriously about our Summit with them until after the Federal elections in October; the Ambassador in Paris has reported that now would be a psychological moment to put forward any suggestions which we have since French thinking is still at a formative stage. Sir R Hibbert and Sir O Wright have both recommended we should field a strong Ministerial team in each case.

2. I myself think this is right. You took four Ministers with you to Bonn and <sup>to the meeting with Giscard here</sup> ~~Paris~~ last autumn and I suggest we aim for the same number, or perhaps one more in each case, this time. The main issues for discussion are already broadly discernible and I think that in order to ensure the clearest possible discussion of them - and incidentally to show our partners that we intend to discuss them in depth - it would be right to include in the party, beside myself, the Chancellor of the Exchequer; the Secretary of State for Defence; the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; and one out of the Secretaries of State for Industry, Trade and Energy.

*Either industry or Trade, Tend to favour Trade.*

3. If you agree, I shall see that the Ministers concerned are alerted in good time so as to keep their diaries free.

4. I am sending a copy of this minute to Sir Robert Armstrong.

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- 7 JUL 1980