

Ref. A06927

MR COLES

Economic Summit 1982

Mr Lyne sent Mr Alexander a letter on ³ December and I sent a minute on ⁴ December about the dates for next year's Economic Summit at Versailles. As a result of those submissions, the Prime Minister ^{7/12} wrote to the President of the French Republic, accepting his invitation to the Summit in principle but saying that the particular dates he had suggested - 7 and 8 June - gave her some difficulty, and suggesting that Personal Representatives should discuss the dates at their meeting in Paris on 12 and 13 December.

2. Before that meeting took place we had been told by the President's staff that we were the only people who were holding up agreement to the dates of 7 and 8 June. The reality turned out to be rather different. My American colleague said that his President was still completing his plans for that period and that he could not commit himself; while my German colleague said that the special session on disarmament of the General Assembly of the United Nations was due to begin on 7 June, that the Federal Chancellor was to speak at it, that protocol demanded that speeches by Heads of Government had to be made during the first three days of such a session, and that the Federal Chancellor would not be prepared to get straight out of an aeroplane at New York and go into the United Nations to deliver his speech.

3. This gave me an opportunity to say that we had usually held the Economic Summit after the Ministerial meeting of the OECD usually held in May and after the meeting of the European Council usually held in June. It then became clear that the French Government regarded themselves as narrowly constrained on dates. The President was very keen to hold the conference in Versailles. He could not close Versailles to the public in July. It was thought to be inappropriate to hold the Summit between 13 June and 3 July, because of the



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The first meeting was held on 12th December and a number of the members of the Council for the first time. The meeting was held in the presence of the French Ambassador, the British Ambassador and the representatives of the French and British Governments. The meeting was held in the presence of the French Ambassador, the British Ambassador and the representatives of the French and British Governments. The meeting was held in the presence of the French Ambassador, the British Ambassador and the representatives of the French and British Governments.

The second meeting was held on 15th December and a number of the members of the Council for the first time. The meeting was held in the presence of the French Ambassador, the British Ambassador and the representatives of the French and British Governments. The meeting was held in the presence of the French Ambassador, the British Ambassador and the representatives of the French and British Governments. The meeting was held in the presence of the French Ambassador, the British Ambassador and the representatives of the French and British Governments.

The third meeting was held on 18th December and a number of the members of the Council for the first time. The meeting was held in the presence of the French Ambassador, the British Ambassador and the representatives of the French and British Governments. The meeting was held in the presence of the French Ambassador, the British Ambassador and the representatives of the French and British Governments. The meeting was held in the presence of the French Ambassador, the British Ambassador and the representatives of the French and British Governments.

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World Cup in Madrid: presumably the fear was that the World Cup would divert attention from the Summit and that the resources of the media would be heavily committed in Madrid. It was thought to be easy to bring forward the OECD Ministerial meeting, and not perhaps impossible to bring forward the European Council (or, if that was not possible, to hold a short special meeting of the Council shortly before the Summit).

4. The period before 7 June was constrained by the fact that 2 June is the Italian National Day and the Italian Prime Minister (whoever he may be) would not be able to leave Italy before 3 June.

5. After some further discussion the Representatives of the French Government, having sought instructions, announced that it would be preferable not to hold the Summit to coincide with the opening of the special session of the General Assembly, for fear of appearing to be discourteous to or to belittle that body. It was accordingly proposed that the dates for the Summit should be Friday 4th, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th June.

6. The occasion bids fair to be one of unexampled splendour. Heads of State or Government will meet in the Chateau in the Salle du Sacre underneath David's great portrait of Napoleon crowning himself Emperor. They will stay in the Grand Trianon in a series of magnificently appointed suites. They will be able to commute between the Chateau and the Grand Trianon on foot, if it is fine, or in a series of small electric cars.

7. The proposed programme envisages a dinner for Heads of State or Government alone at the Grand Trianon on the evening of Friday 4 June. The conference will open on the morning of Saturday 5 June in the Chateau. Heads of State or Government will again dine on their own at the Grand Trianon that evening. The meeting will conclude with a press conference on the afternoon of Saturday 6 June and on that evening there will be a grand dinner in the Galerie des



Glaces, with entertainments on the terrace and fireworks in the gardens.
So the commitment would in effect be from the late afternoon of Friday 4 June to last thing on Sunday 6 June, or early on Monday 7 June if the Prime Minister preferred to stay another night rather than come back very late on Sunday.

8. The French Government are now extremely anxious to get the dates settled in order to ensure the necessary hotel reservations. Their first choice is for 4 to 6 June, as described above; their second choice would be for the same schedule two days later from Sunday 6 June to Tuesday 8 June.

9. I should be grateful if you could let me know whether the Prime Minister would be prepared to accept the President's invitation for the 4 to 6 June.

10. I am sending copies of this minute to Mr Lyne and to Mr Kerr, since the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be accompanying the Prime Minister to the Summit.



ROBERT ARMSTRONG

15th December 1981