

SECRET BURNING BUSH

QUADRIPARTITE MEETING, VIENNA, 16 MAY

Present

Federal Republic of Germany

Hr Gunther van Well,
State Secretary, Foreign
Ministry

Hr Otto von der Gablentz
Federal Chancellor's Office

Hr Reinhard Schenk,
Head of West European Dept,
Foreign Ministry

France

M. Gabriel Robin, Political
Director, Foreign Ministry

M. Edouard Braine, Staff of
Political Director, Foreign
Ministry

United Kingdom

Mr Julian Bullard, Deputy Under-
Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth
Office

Mr Roger Garside, Planning Staff,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

United States of America

Present for part of
the time.

Mr David Aaron, National
Security Council Staff

Mr George Vest, Assistant
Secretary, for Europe,
State Department.

Mr Bob Blackwill, National
Security Council Staff

Mr Berl Bernhard, State
Department.

Mr Leon Billings, personal
staff of US Secretary of
State.

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Treatment of Political Subjects at Venice

1. The meeting was reminded of the French attitude to the questions of (a) discussion of political subjects in Venice and (b) a communique on these subjects, as explained by M. Francois-Poncet to his 3 colleagues earlier in the day (see record attached). The others took note of this French view.
2. It was agreed that one way of arranging the political discussion would be to sandwich it between two slices of economic discussion. Those preparing the economic side envisaged that after some discussion of economic matters by Heads of Government, the Economic Ministers would be instructed to meet separately to draft language for the declaration. This would provide a natural gap during which the Heads of Government could discuss political matters. This might also be a smooth way of ensuring that the President of the European Commission was not present for the political discussions. He could leave the meeting when the Economic Ministers left it, and return only when they returned. The Germans noted that there had been support in some quarters for the ideas of devoting about half the Summit time to political matters, and of restricting the numbers of those taking part in the political discussion.

Detailed Preparation by the Four

3. It was agreed that the following papers should be prepared for consideration at the next meeting of the same officials on 30/31 May:-
 - a) The French would draft a paper on East/West Relations. This would analyse Soviet policy in the recent past and at present, and, subject to approval by M. Robin's superiors, make recommendations for Western policy towards the Soviet Union;
 - b) The Germans would draft a paper on consultation among the Allies; (Mr Aaron had expressed anxiety about the extent to which the United States was not "plugged in" to the very frequent consultations among the Nine);
 - c) The Americans would draft one paper on Afghanistan and another on arms control, focussing principally on SALT and TNF;
 - d) The UK would draft two papers on the West's relations with the Third World, the first covering security matters and the second political and economic relations, following the line of the UK paper circulated in advance of this meeting.

Preparation among the Seven.

4. It was agreed that the Americans should in due course suggest to the Italians that they call a Seven-Power meeting in about mid-June to prepare the political side of the Summit. This meeting could consider draft language on political questions, for the Summit declaration.

5. It was not envisaged that the papers to be drafted by the Four would be distributed unchanged to the Seven. Consideration would be given at the next meeting to the kind of preparation that the Seven might suitably undertake, if any, beyond considering language for the communique. A French suggestion that the Japanese might be asked to do a paper on China was well received and the Americans invited the others to think of questions on China that could be put to the Japanese.

Draft language on Political Subjects for Venice Communique.

6. The Americans distributed a one-page draft of language for the Venice Summit Declaration. This focused entirely on Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf, and on the threat to Western oil supplies. The other participants at the meeting suggested that other subjects might need to be mentioned, and that in any case the political section of the Declaration need not necessarily be so narrowly based. It was agreed to circulate proposals for amendment.

Distribution:

Mr Alexander, No 10
Private Secretary
PS/LFS
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Mr Bullard
Mr Braithwaite
Mr Garside

Sir R Armstrong Cabinet Office
Mr Wade-Gery

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