

Ref: A0568



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Prime Minister  
Apex Annexes A+C.

(You will of course not be expected  
to deal with most - or even many -  
of the items on the agenda.)

Prms 2/41

3  
11  
tete-a-tete  
MR. ALEXANDER

Anglo-French Consultations: 19th-20th November

President Giscard will be visiting this country on 19th-20th November for the next in the series of full-scale summit meetings which take place annually. (The Prime Minister's visit to France on 5th June was arranged to allow early contact between the two leaders following the change of Government, and, as such, was not part of the summit series). The Embassy in Paris expect President Giscard to bring with him his Prime Minister, M. Barre; his Foreign Minister, M. Francois-Poncet; his Minister of Defence, M. Bourges; and his Minister of Industry, M. Giraud. On the British side, the Prime Minister has said she wishes to be supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary; the Chancellor of the Exchequer (who is not yet, however, in a position to say whether he will be able to get back from the Finance Council in Brussels in time to meet M. Barre); and by the Secretaries of State for Defence and for Industry. It would also be desirable to engage the Secretary of State for Energy on this occasion: M. Giraud, who also acts as Minister of Energy, has specifically said that he wishes to exchange views on possible nuclear co-operation and international energy issues will also no doubt figure in the talks.

2. President Giscard is due to arrive in London on 19th November in
- ① time for a tete-a-tete discussion with the Prime Minister at No. 10 at 12 noon which will be followed by a small informal lunch. There will be a further
  - ② tete-a-tete discussion during the first part of the afternoon, enlarged at half-time by the participation of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer (depending on progress at the Finance Council) with M. Barre (who will be in London for the afternoon of 19th November only) and M. Francois-Poncet. This will be followed in turn by a plenary session of talks at about 16.30 at which the Secretaries of State for Defence, Industry and Energy and their French opposite numbers - who will have separate talks



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during the course of the visit - would be present. The Prime Minister is to give a dinner for President Giscard at No. 10 that evening. The programme is to continue during the first part of the morning of 20th November, with a concluding tete-a-tete discussion immediately followed by a joint Press conference which would end at 11.30. This is to be followed by a call on President Giscard by the Leader of the Opposition and, to conclude his visit, The Queen has arranged to give President Giscard a private lunch at Buckingham Palace.

3. The following agenda has been agreed with the French:-

- (a) European Community Issues
- (b) International Economic and Monetary Questions
- (c) International Energy Questions
- (d) African Questions
- (e) East/West Relations (including China)
- (f) Indo-China
- (g) Middle East
- (h) Defence and Disarmament Issues
- (i) Industrial Collaboration
- (j) Bilateral Matters (including the Fontevraud Conference)

4. It is virtually certain that at various points on the agenda, not least under items (e) and (h) of this agenda, various aspects of United States/ European relations will be discussed and it is therefore proposed to cover this subject in a separate brief. We shall also arrange for the Prime Minister to have a separate brief on nuclear matters.

5. I attach at Annexes A and B a draft of British and probable French objectives and, at Annex C, a suggested list of briefs, the preparation of which will be co-ordinated by the Cabinet Office, and which will be delivered to you in time for the Prime Minister's weekend box on Friday, 9th November.

6. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the Prime Minister is content.

*MJV.*  
(M. J. Vile)

2nd November, 1979





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UNITED KINGDOM OBJECTIVES

1. To secure French acquiescence in a satisfactory outcome for the United Kingdom on the budget at the Dublin European Council. !!
2. To see whether common ground can be established with the French on other Community problems which they may raise, consistently with the maintenance of British interests.
3. To consolidate the good working relationship established with the French during the Prime Minister's visit to France in June and to secure President Giscard's agreement to an increase in the frequency of Anglo-French summits to twice a year, in line with arrangements with the FRG and Italy. Why?
4. To exchange views on defence questions and East/West relations.
5. To assess the international economic and monetary situation, including North/South issues and energy.
6. To review the situation in Africa and to ensure that we and the French continue to see eye to eye on the problems of Southern Africa.
7. To review progress in the promotion of industrial collaboration between Britain and France, and to press for the removal of obstacles to British investment in France. ?
8. To obtain French agreement that any future government-supported credits for the Soviet Union should attract interest not below the internationally agreed Consensus rates.

## PROBABLE FRENCH OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure that the summit is a success in maintaining good relations between France and Britain and, therefore, in the course of defending French interests, not to appear obstructive.
2. On Britain's contribution to the European Community budget, to form a judgement on how little France needs to concede and to ensure that France gets a quid pro quo for any concession.
3. To probe in particular the possibility of UK concessions on Fisheries, and Sheepmeat, and possibly on North Sea oil, Euratom and institutional matters.
4. To explore cautiously the possibilities for cooperation in the military nuclear field.





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ANNEX C

*Handwritten signature/initials*

LIST OF BRIEFS

1. Steering Brief
2. European Community Questions
  - (i) Community Steering Brief
  - (ii) Budget - *In very confidential detail with. Part*
  - (iii) EMS *not contribution records of all member states*
  - (iv) CAP *as well as future. Also the origin*
  - (v) Fisheries *of all countries.*
  - (vi) Institutions
  - (vii) Other Community Issues
3. Defence, including TNF
4. Arms Control and Disarmament, including SALT, MBFR and EDC
5. East/West Relations (including China)
6. Export Credit
7. International Economic and Monetary Questions
8. International Energy Questions
9. Africa
10. Indo-China
11. Middle East
12. Industrial Collaboration
13. Bilateral Matters (including the Fontevraud Conference)
14. France: Internal Political and Economic Scene
15. Relations between the United States and Europe