

16.



Prime Minister.

TOP SECRET

MR. WHITMORE

mb.

Yes

Yes.

Agree to procedure and timing proposed at X below?

You are free on 16th July. What you like to give De Broygnot's letter?

16th 25th in.

We have run into a problem on the timetable for telling President Giscard and Chancellor Schmidt about the decision on the Polaris successor.

2. You will remember that the present timetable is to deliver the Prime Minister's letter to the President on 11th July, to tell President Giscard and Chancellor Schmidt on 15th July, and to tell Signor Cossiga on 16th July. The Cabinet would be informed on 17th July, the Prime Minister would make a statement in the House of Commons that afternoon.

3. The difficulty arises from the fact that Chancellor Schmidt goes on holiday on 14th July, and will no doubt be away from Bonn on 12th-13th July (Saturday and Sunday). On the other hand President Giscard will be in Germany from 7th to 12th July for one of the regular series of Franco/German Summits.

4. I do not think that we can tell the Germans after Chancellor Schmidt has gone on holiday. It therefore looks as if we shall have to tell both him and President Giscard on Friday, 11th July. This is disadvantageous in that it prolongs the period between telling them and the date of the announcement. But I think that is a risk we have to take: we cannot bring the date of the announcement forward without creating a long period of delay between telling the Cabinet and the Prime Minister's public announcement.

X

5. I therefore propose that we should send an Emissary to Bonn on Friday, 11th July; and that that Emissary should be empowered to inform the Personal Representatives of President Giscard and Chancellor Schmidt, probably M. Wahl and Herr von Staden, for transmission to the President and Chancellor only. They would be asked to keep the information in strictest confidence until the date of the announcement. If the Prime Minister is content with this arrangement, I shall need to discuss it with the White House.

6. This change need not affect the rest of the timetable, including the arrangements for the President's reply to the Prime Minister to be delivered in London on 16th July.



TOP SECRET

7. I gather that Dr. Brzezinski is thinking of himself acting as the President's Emissary to London. No doubt the Prime Minister would wish to see him herself and to receive the President's reply. I should be glad to know whether the Prime Minister wishes to entertain him, or whether she is content for me to do so. If she does not want to do so, I shall be very ready to offer him lunch or dinner, and (if he would like that) to arrange a small lunch party for him.

*Will be delighted
to entertain him.
RA*

(Robert Armstrong)

24th July 1980