

CONFIDENTIAL

MR. ALEXANDER

I don't understand all the fuss. I don't see what a planning. In the circumstances Mr Alexander (or) Prime Minister.

Let's see how far the Chancellor may need to live the Chancellor with more meetings. We can do it all in a morning. I see no need to live the Chancellor with more meetings. We can do it all in a morning. I see no need to live the Chancellor with more meetings. We can do it all in a morning.

The dates have now been fixed. Are you content with the statement of objectives (Flag B)? The long list of briefs reflects the number of Ministers participating - on which I may have to submit further. That

I understand that the Anglo-German Consultations which were to have taken place on 29th-30th October have now been formally postponed and that they have been rearranged for 17th-18th November.

2. This postponement is likely to involve a revised programme since the Prime Minister will not, I believe, be leaving London until after her Audience on Tuesday, 17th November. She will therefore have less time in Bonn, and may wish to reconsider how many Ministers should accompany her. These are points which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will have to consider once you have notified them of the new dates.

3. I should however like to put briefing in hand for this visit now and attach at Annex A the proposals which the Germans have made for the agenda. At Annexes B and C are assessments of British and German objectives for the meeting, and at Annex D a suggested list of briefs, the preparation of which will be co-ordinated in the usual way by the Cabinet Office. In order to ensure the best possible co-ordination of the preparations for this Summit, I shall be holding a meeting of Permanent Secretaries to consider the draft steering brief, the principal subjects on which the Summit should concentrate and also what are likely to be the issues which will need to be followed up after the Summit in bilateral discussion.

4. I understand that the briefing meeting for the Consultations is now planned for Tuesday, 17th November at 4.00 pm. In these circumstances I should like to propose that the briefs should reach you by mid-day on Friday, 13th November.

5. One point which might well be considered at the briefing meeting is whether the Prime Minister should send a message to President Mitterrand and also perhaps to President Reagan. I also hope that some mention might be made at the briefing meeting of the suggestion that it might be helpful to arrange for a delegation meeting halfway through the Summit. I felt that such a

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meeting would have been useful during the Anglo-French Consultations last month. It would involve the Prime Minister and her Ministerial colleagues, as well as the senior officials in the party, and would aim to pull together the threads of the bilateral discussions which will have been continuing during the first afternoon in order thereby to ensure that the plenary session the next morning is directed at outstanding points either of disagreement or on which further collective discussion between the two sides would be desirable.

Robert Armstrong

*(approved by Sir R Armstrong
& signed on his behalf)*

16th October 1981

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