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Prime Minister

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MR. ALEXANDER

Content with suggestions
↳ paras 4+5.
see note
Rmt, mt

Anglo-German Summit: 18th November

With my minute of 16th October, I enclosed proposals for the agenda, objectives and briefs for this Summit which has been postponed from 29th-30th October to 18th November.

2. The Prime Minister has agreed to take a team of six Ministers with her and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have now confirmed that in addition to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of Agriculture and the Secretaries of State for Defence, Trade and Industry are available to travel to Bonn.

3. Arrangements for the Summit are as follows. The bulk of the British party will fly out to Bonn on the evening of 17th November. They will have supper on the aircraft. There will be opportunity for final briefing on arrival at the Ambassador's residence. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will not arrive in Bonn until first thing on the morning of 18th November as he will be in Strasbourg the previous evening for the colloquy with the European Parliament. The morning of 18th November will be taken up with individual bilateral discussions between the various Ministers. The Foreign Ministers will join the Prime Minister and Chancellor Schmidt after the latter have had a tete-a-tete of an hour or so. Luncheon will be a gala affair hosted by the Federal Chancellor. In the afternoon there will be a plenary session, followed by a Press conference. The party will leave Bonn in time to get back to London for dinner.

4. The list of subjects for discussion remains similar to that circulated with my minute of 16th October. I attach a revised list at Annex A. It is still very long, reflecting a not untypical German enthusiasm to cover a lot of ground in spite of the fact that the Summit will now be shorter than originally planned. Many of the topics for discussion will have to be covered by the Ministers accompanying the Prime Minister, in their bilaterals with their German counterparts. I will ask the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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to pursue this point further with the Germans, and the exact division of topics can be finalised at the Prime Minister's briefing meeting. For the moment, however, we envisage that in her tete-a-tete with the Federal Chancellor, the Prime Minister will probably wish to concentrate on Community questions such as the Mandate, the Internal Market, European Union, French policy and the aftermath of the Greek elections; West-West and East-West relations; SALT; International Economic Questions and Bilateral Relations. The lists of objectives also submitted with my minute of 16th October remains unchanged. The proposed list of briefs has been amended to take account of some of the minor changes in the list of subjects for discussion. I attach a copy at Annex B. Provided you agree, I will arrange for the briefs to reach you by close of play on Friday, 13th November.

5. The briefing meeting for the Anglo-German Summit is to take place at 4.30 pm on Tuesday, 17th November. I recommend that the Ministers who will be accompanying the Prime Minister to Bonn should be invited to attend, notably the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of Agriculture and the Secretaries of State for Defence and Industry. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Trade will be in Strasbourg and Luxembourg respectively on 17th November and will not therefore be available for the briefing meeting. You will probably therefore wish to arrange for the Prime Minister's programme on 18th November to include a brief discussion with Lord Carrington after his arrival in Bonn. As for officials, I would suggest that the following be invited to attend: Mr. Franklin and me from the Cabinet Office; Sir Michael Palliser and Mr. Bullard from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Sir Kenneth Couzens from the Treasury; Sir Frank Cooper from the Ministry of Defence; Mr. Gill from the Department of Industry and Miss Lackey from the Department of Trade.

REA

Robert Armstrong

5th November 1981

No - much more likely to discuss the West and economic issues.