

Prime Minister

Seen

PRESS CONFERENCE

This note, written after my meeting with the British press this morning, may help you to prepare for your joint press conference with Chancellor Schmidt at 4.45 p m.

First: tone

I have sought to portray the bilateral as very important in terms of timing:

- immediately after the Foreign Affairs Council at which little progress was made on the Mandate (see Lord Carrington's press conference comments, Annex A);
- immediately after President Reagan's zero option initiative of which we were, of course, aware and which we welcome;
- immediately before President Brezhnev's visit to Germany; and
- little more than a week before the European Council in London at which we hope to make real progress on the Mandate.

In addition I have pointed to the opportunity which the 10th bilateral in the series gives to rehearse the extent of Anglo-German co-operation and to resolve to extend and deepen it. I have sought not to overplay the press release, since it does not add up to much in news terms; instead, to emphasise it as a token of our mutual desire to co-operate even more extensively.

Second: interest

There are two main topics of interest:

- The zero option and its link with President Brezhnev's visit; its potentially beneficial effect on trans-Atlantic relations after recent difficulties; and its impact on European opinion: I have reacted positively;

/The Mandate

- /
- The Mandate and the prospects for progress at the European Council; here I have reminded journalists of Lord Carrington's words yesterday (Annex A) and our determination to make progress in London next week; and the fundamental need, notwithstanding our likely contribution this year of only £55 million, for reform of the Community with parallel progress on the three chapters of the May 30 Mandate.

Third: mechanics

I shall be very surprised if the press conference strays far beyond the two main topics of interest set out above, though there is a possibility that you might be asked about Sinai and Northern Ireland. I shall keep in touch with London on the latter.

Gala lunch

I understand there will be no BBC or ITV cameras there but that the German Government will record and issue a transcript of Chancellor Schmidt's and your speeches. This will be done pretty quickly so you could get questions on your luncheon speech at the press conference.

Press Conference

As you know, this is in the hands of our German hosts and they conduct it.

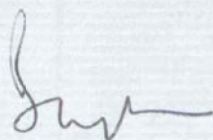
Radio and TV

I have asked Keith Graves (BBC TV), David Smeeton (Resident BBC radio correspondent in Bonn) and Michael Brunson (ITN) to set up in a room near the press conference so that you can do short news interviews as you have to get away quickly. As of now, we have had no approach from IRN. David Smeeton is, of

/course,



course, a former BBC Education Correspondent and you may have met him in that capacity.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. Ingham', written in a cursive style.

18 November 1981

B Ingham