



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 October 1981

You will have been informed in Luxembourg by telephone of the Prime Minister's agreement to the circulation today of the first draft of the Presidency conclusions for next month's meeting of the European Council. The Prime Minister did so on the basis that it was necessary for discussion of the conclusions to begin well in advance of the meeting if there was to be any possibility of the Council itself reaching agreed conclusions. The Prime Minister, who has just returned from Mexico and is pre-occupied with tomorrow's Censure Debate in the House of Commons, has not approved, or indeed read, the draft as such.

The Prime Minister has asked me to make it clear that she attaches substantial importance to the understanding, referred to in my letter to you of 19 October, which she has reached with President Mitterrand on this question. In her view, the Presidency's conclusions should be brief; should deal only with matters actually discussed by the Heads of State and Government; and should be used to record substantive results reached in discussions. If there are no substantive results there will, in the Prime Minister's view, be no need for any conclusions.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER (

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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