



Max - no.
There is too

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

must delete.
Very much better
revisions
must

I said to you a moment ago ^{perhaps} that I would not put the Foreign Secretary's minute to you until the Chancellor had sent the letter he promised this morning. However the attached letter has since arrived which, clearly, you should see this evening.

~~So~~ Lord Carrington seems to be saying that he feels strongly that the best course is to go for guidelines at a meeting before Xmas; & that if you disagree with this, the meeting should be cancelled.

Are you prepared, on the basis of his minute, to let the F.C.S. try for guidelines? And



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 December 1981

Jean Margard

I have written you a minute, which I am copying to Geoffrey Howe and Peter Walker, in the light of our meeting this morning on the Mandate. The purpose of this personal letter is to impress on you my very serious worry about the way in which things were left.

It is quite clear that our colleagues in the Ten, and Chancellor Schmidt in particular, are expecting us not only to call the informal meeting of Foreign Ministers but to make a serious effort to reach agreement on recommendations which will carry the work forward. What they want is one more heave to pin down the progress made under your chairmanship at the European Council and to give heads of government a firm basis on which to reach agreement on a detailed settlement next year. With the possible exception of the French, all our partners see the Foreign Ministers' job as getting agreement on some useful guidelines. This is what they all had in mind at the end of the European Council.

We can not guarantee success: the French or some of the smaller countries may continue to block progress. But I feel very strongly that it is politically essential for us, both as Britain and as the country holding the Presidency, to go into the meeting and to be seen to run it with the intention of getting results. I do not see how I can reasonably be expected to summon my colleagues and to chair a special meeting of Foreign Ministers at

/which

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP



which we ourselves are not prepared to make any effort
at all to reach agreement.

[Handwritten signature] ²
Pete

(CARRINGTON)