

After all the preliminary meetings, I doubt whether we shall need

Prime Minister

You will wish to be aware of these

Ref. A08279

MR COLES

the actual summit! arrangement.

A.J.C. 30/4

ms.

Versailles Economic Summit: Meeting of Personal Representatives: 24-25 April

A meeting of Personal Representatives was held at Rambouillet last weekend to prepare for the forthcoming Versailles Summit. I was able to attend the first part of the meeting before I returned to London for meetings on the Falklands. Mr Hancock took my place for the rest of the meeting. Given the restricted nature of the Personal Representatives' meeting, this was a considerable concession to my difficulties on the part of the French Personal Representative, Monsieur Jacques Attali, and I have thanked him accordingly. Mr Hancock and I were accompanied at the meeting by Sir Kenneth Couzens from the Treasury and Lord Bridges from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

2. There is to be a further meeting of Personal Representatives in mid-May. This will be the last meeting before the Economic Summit and will be concerned with the final preparation of the papers which the Heads of State and Government will have before them. All being well, I will hope to be able to be present for that meeting in its entirety and will report on its proceedings to the Prime Minister after my return. The proceedings of that meeting and its conclusions will, of course, have a considerable bearing on the preparation of briefs for the Summit.

3. There were, however, a number of procedural points about the Summit which were clarified at last weekend's meeting at Rambouillet. These are set out below.

4. The Heads of State and Government, Foreign Ministers and Finance Ministers will dine separately on the evening of Friday 4 June. These will be full working sessions lasting possibly five hours. The Heads of State and Government will probably have a general introductory discussion. The Foreign Ministers will be asked to concentrate on East/West relations (including the United States proposals for limiting export credit to the USSR) and North/South issues. Finance Ministers will be asked to discuss the French proposals for an improvement of the international monetary system.



5. It has now been agreed that Foreign Ministers will attend the lunch on Saturday 5 June with Heads of State and Government. This will be the opportunity to discuss political questions, possibly with a view to the issue of agreed texts on Saturday evening. This point remains to be resolved at the next meetings of Political and Personal Representatives.

6. The dinner on Saturday 5 June is to be for Heads of State and Government alone. They will concentrate on the more sensitive political issues not suitable for reporting to the Press. At their dinner on Saturday Finance Ministers could, if appropriate, consider the technical and financial aspects of any proposals that were still being countenanced on relations with the Soviet Union.

7. The lunch on Sunday 6 June will be rather brief, but Foreign Ministers will be present with Heads of State and Government. The afternoon session will start at 2.00 pm and end at 3.00 pm. This session will provide the opportunity for final agreement of the concluding declaration. There will then on Sunday afternoon be two hours free (at the request of the Americans) before Press conferences at 5.00 pm. Eight separate rooms will be available in the Orangery so that each Head of Delegation can hold a separate national Press conference after the plenary Press conference.

8. The President of the Republic intends the concluding declaration to be short and pithy; I have been encouraging this. A note on its present shape and coverage is attached as an annex. No draft has been sent to participant countries, but Personal Representatives were consulted at Rambouillet very informally about an early draft which they were not allowed to retain. The work will be taken a stage further at the next meeting in May, and the final draft will be produced by a meeting of Personal Representatives in the night of 5-6 June. Heads of State and Government will consider the draft for the first time on Sunday morning. The French President is insistent that the discussions on Friday evening and on the whole of Saturday should be held without any regard to the text of the final declaration.

9. No Head of State and Government other than the French President will see the Press from the start of proceedings on Friday until the Press conferences on Sunday afternoon. The French President will give one Press conference during this period on Saturday afternoon to give the Press something to write about for



Sunday. He will report the day's events and, if appropriate, release any political statements agreed at lunch.

10. It would be acceptable for individual Foreign and Finance Ministers to see the Press at the end of each half day session; but not during any session.

11. It is to be understood that no Government representative should quote the views of any other Government when speaking to the Press. Only views of his own Government should be identified. References could be made to the fact that some countries thought one thing and some another so long as they were not named.

12. It is hoped that preparatory briefing of the Press before the Summit can be very discreet. Governments should outline the points of importance to them but should not speculate on the views of others or on the likely outcome of the Summit. Above all, the French are most anxious to avoid leaks of the content of either their President's report on technology or the final declaration. The national Presses should be told to expect only a short declaration and not the traditional communique.

13. At the meeting delegations will be arranged in alphabetical order in French starting on the President's right. At the first dinner the order of precedence will be formal seniority in post. Subsequently the placement will change to permit varying contacts.

14. Spouses of Heads of State and Government are welcome. Mrs Reagan will be there. But their participation in the proceedings will be confined to the dinner and festivities on Sunday evening.

15. At the Sunday dinner there will be places for the leader plus 10. At the opera there will be places for the leader plus 15. Only the Heads of State and Government, their spouses if present, and possibly their Foreign and Finance Ministers, will be at both occasions. The French will shortly seek a list of names for both occasions. I am asking the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to give some thought to who should be in each party.

16. The dinner will be very brief, lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. The other guests for the opera will gather in the opera house to be seated while this is going on. Then leaders, plus spouses, and possibly Ministers, will walk from the dinner to the show. The show will last only 45 minutes. It will be followed by a cocktail party lasting 15 minutes in the Galerie des Glaces. The leaders and





spouses will then leave for a promenade in the grounds to watch the fireworks. The other guests will see the fireworks from the Galerie des Glaces windows.

17. The French President will present his report on technology and the world crisis to the first session of the Council on Saturday morning. Its contents are to be regarded as secret in the meantime. The French Personal Representative will, on his own authority, circulate a first draft of the action proposals and a sketch of the introductory analysis to other Personal Representatives for discussion at their next meeting on 14 May. In addition he will send an assistant to answer questions in advance from a nominated technical assistant of each Personal Representative. I am arranging for the Chief Scientist in the Cabinet Office, Dr Nicholson, to be our representative. He will keep other Whitehall Departments informed as necessary.

*I think this is best if we write more of the technical content*

18. Political Representatives will meet on 14 May, starting at 10.00 am, to prepare the political content of the Summit. *Why?*

19. Financial Representatives will meet in Paris on the evening of 14 May to discuss French ideas for an improvement in the working of the international monetary system.

20. The European Community will be represented by both the Belgian Prime Minister and the President of the European Commission at sessions, including the two dinners when the Heads of State and Government are on their own. (Nothing was said about the presence of the Belgian Foreign Minister or Finance Minister or about the number of note-takers at the discussions on 4-5 April.)

21. Note-takers in the sessions will have the use of separate tele-copiers so that what they write down will be available immediately in delegation offices.

22. Each delegation will have three seats at the table (except presumably the European Community which will have only two seats, unless a change is made in the present understanding).

23. As for other delegations, the following have so far made their intentions clear: President Reagan will be accompanied by Mr Haig and Mr Regan; Chancellor Schmidt very probably by Herr Genscher and Herr Lahnstein; Signor Spadolini may be obliged to bring in addition to Signor Colombo, Signor La Malfa as well as Signor Andreatta.





24. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Private Secretary, to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

30 April 1982



ANNEXOutline of French Ideas on the Declaration to be Issued at the End of the Summit

The present draft covers precisely one page in single spacing with a small typewriter. The theme of the Summit is said to be to improve the countries' understanding of the crisis which their societies are undergoing. There would be five themes:

- (i) Proposals for a constructive evolution of the international monetary system, including the reduction of inflation, the restoration of a socially acceptable level of unemployment, the reduction of interest rates and the stabilisation of exchange rates.
- (ii) The development of world trade.
- (iii) Further efforts in the field of energy saving and the development of non-oil resources in a long term perspective.
- (iv) Relations with the developing countries, with a favourable reference to launching the global negotiations soon.
- (v) A suitably welcoming reference to the President of France's report on technology and the world economic crisis.



*Econ Pol 888*



*File*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

VERSAILLES ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The Prime Minister read over the weekend your minute of 30 April.

With regard to paragraph 17, in which you refer to the role of the Chief Scientist in the Cabinet Office, the Prime Minister has commented that she believes the French President's report on technology will be less a scientific exercise than one relating to industrial technology.

With regard to paragraph 18, the Prime Minister has asked why it is necessary for political representatives to meet on 14 May to prepare the political content of the Summit.

I am copying this minute to Brian Fall (FCO) and John Kerr (HM Treasury).

A. J. COLES

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4 May 1982