



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 May 1982

The discussion will be topical & unstructured - and in the hands of the Chairman. I am always, myself, about to conclude that why it, needs a meeting what will happen? not.

Prime Minister

I do not think it necessary to give guidance to political representatives before 14 May. Heads of governments will decide themselves what they want to discuss. Agree?

Dear John,

A.J.C. 10/5

Political Discussion at the Economic Summit

In your letter of 4 May to Sir Robert Armstrong, you said that the Prime Minister had asked, after seeing Sir Robert's minute of 30 April, why it was necessary for political representatives to meet on 14 May to prepare the political discussion at the Versailles Summit.

Although the French have not explicitly said so, their purpose in calling the meeting on 14 May must be to set out their own ideas as regards the political content of the Summit and to give others a chance to comment. So far, the French have said only that they think the political discussion should be (a) topical and (b) unstructured. With a month to go it is difficult to be specific, but the agenda might well include the Falkland Islands, depending on events during the next month; East/West relations, especially Poland where there have been some dramatic developments; and Afghanistan which should not be allowed to sink out of public consciousness; and possibly the Middle East. The French may also have suggestions on how discussion should be organised as between the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Government, and how far there needs to be any advance preparation in the way of drafts.

If the Prime Minister has views on any of these points, no doubt you will let me know. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary for his part would be content to make up his mind in the light of the results of the meeting on 14 May.

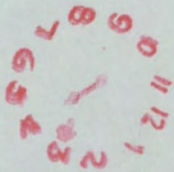
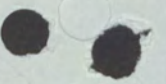
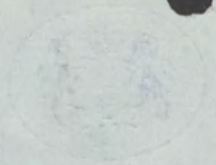
Yours ever,

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

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10 MAY 1982

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11 May 1982

Political discussion at the Economic Summit

Thank you for your letter of 10 May which the Prime Minister has seen.

Mrs. Thatcher notes that the French intend that the political discussion at the Summit should be topical and unstructured - and therefore in the hands of the Chairman. She remains somewhat doubtful why, in that case, a preparatory meeting is necessary but does not wish to give further guidance to our political representatives before the meeting on 14 May.

JOHN COLES

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office