

PRIME MINISTER

Anglo-French Summit

I attach the latest programme.

I have told the FCO that 0845 is too early for the tête-à-tête on Friday and that they should envisage beginning this at 0900.

Do you want to use the whole time from 0900 to, say, 1030 for tête-à-tête discussions? Or would you like Foreign Ministers to join you at 1000?

We normally have the plenary session in the Cabinet Room but we have an unusual problem of numbers. The French want about 22 people on their side. It might therefore be more convenient to move to the State Dining Room for the plenary.

Agree?

*Yes - we shall need to have some nice flowers or plants in there. It is a very dull room.*

As for lunch on 21 October, you had envisaged just having the participating Ministers. The problem with this is that President Mitterrand's advisers (and they number five) have as much status and more influence than most of his Ministers. They would all like to be at the lunch. I suggest, if you agree, that we have three round tables in the Pillared Room, making a total of 24 people. The tables could be set up while you are holding your Press Conference. Agree?

*Yes ~~that could~~  
not.  
A.S.C.*

13 October 1983



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 October, 1983

*Dear John,*

Anglo-French Summit

/ It may be helpful to bring you up to date on the arrangements for the Summit. In particular, I attach the latest draft of the programme (the times when the Prime Minister will be involved are underlined).

The Prime Minister's wishes on who should accompany her at the Anglo-French Summit have been given to the French (your letter of 7 October to Roger Bone). There has been no formal response as yet but the French had earlier been thinking in terms of:

- M. Claude Cheysson (External Relations);
- M. Jacques Delors (Economy and Finance);
- M. Laurent Fabius (Industry and Research - and also Energy);
- M. Michel Rocard (Agriculture);
- Mme. Edith Cresson (External Trade and Tourism);
- M. Chandernagor (European Affairs).

They had said that they would consider the inclusion of M. Hernu if we were to propose Mr Heseltine and will presumably now be doing so. We have spoken about M. Chandernagor: Mr Rifkind's diary suggests he would be free to see him for bilateral discussions during the Summit. It would make sense also, if you agree, for ✓ Mr Rifkind to attend the plenary to match M. Chandernagor. Mme. Cresson may only be able to stay for 20 October. M. Alain Savary (Education) is due on 21 October, primarily to accompany the President when he opens the Lycée extension, but there might be scope for a short bilateral with Sir K Joseph. M. Fabius may also wish to have a word with the latter on research matters. We shall be pursuing these points separately. I shall, of course, let you know as soon as we have a formal French response.

✓ We have now received your letter of 11 October. The French are particularly keen that Messrs Attali and Bianco (Special Adviser to the President and Secretary General of the Elysée respectively) should attend the Prime Minister's dinner on 20 October because of their important roles in the Presidential entourage and their quasi-ministerial status. We are still trying to persuade the French that



*How many of  
hand leads? X*

they should attend the dinner being given for officials by Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Antony Acland but officials at the Elysee feel quite strongly about this point. They have also specifically asked if all five (sic) Presidential advisers could attend the working lunch on 21 October. Last time the Summit was held in London, none attended the dinner but all went to the lunch. Given that the five in question are undoubtedly President Mitterrand's closest and most influential advisers, there may be advantage in including them in one meal, if not all at the same one. In the light of the Prime Minister's views, we may have to ask the Embassy in Paris to discuss this further in detail with the Elysee.

On participation in the plenary session, we should like to follow the same format as last time. In practice, we assume that each Minister would be accompanied by one official (though President Mitterrand would wish to have his five). The two Ambassadors should be there and at least the French Coordinator of the closer bilateral contacts exercise. The Head of our Western European Department would take the record. I imagine that the Prime Minister would wish Sir R Armstrong and perhaps Mr Goodall or Mr Williamson to attend. We shall let you have a list of names on this basis as soon as it is more or less firm. I shall also let you know about interpretation.

We are planning to submit a toast and short notes for the Prime Minister's use at the dinner. It would be right to say a few informal words but we are assuming that the Prime Minister is not planning to make a major speech.

French practice is for other Ministers to attend the Press Conference as well. It is not our practice and we have reminded the French that they did not attend at the last London Summit. If President Mitterrand persists, I hope the Prime Minister would however be prepared to consider going along with it, as happened at the Press Conference last year in Paris.

I should welcome your views and, where appropriate, those of the Prime Minister on the outline programme and the points raised in each of the paragraphs above.

I am sending copies of this letter to Private Secretaries at HM Treasury, the Department of Energy, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Education and Science and the Cabinet Office, as well as to Stephen Lamport here.

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10 Downing Street

for (R B Bone)  
Private Secretary