

Ref. A083/2938  
PRIME MINISTER



*Yes - but please give Prime Minister  
a letter to let should equal to Mr. Attali in  
the sense of X.?*

*A.S.C. 18/10.*

Anglo-French Summit

One of the topics that may arise in your meetings with President Mitterrand later in the week is the dates for the 1984 Economic Summit.

2. We have proposed that the Summit should be held from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 June 1984. All the other participants have accepted those dates, but President Mitterrand's office suggested that it would be inappropriate to hold the meeting the weekend before the elections to the European Parliament, and that it would be better to have the Economic Summit after the meeting of the European Council (which Monsieur Mitterrand will chair) due to be held in June. The French Government have been thinking of 25 and 26 June for the meeting of the European Council, but offered to clear those dates for the Economic Summit and hold the European Council on 20 and 21 June.

3. I have now had a chance of discussing this possible change with representatives of the White House. They say that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for President Reagan to manage the later dates. We shall therefore have to try to persuade the French to come into line. The letter which I received from President Mitterrand's Special Adviser on the subject suggested that his mind was not absolutely closed to the possibility of settling for the earlier dates.

4. I shall be seeing Monsieur Attali before dinner on Thursday 20 October, while you are having your first tete-a-tete with the President. I will discuss this question with him at that meeting. I should like to be able to say that this is something on which you would be very happy to have a word with the President the following morning, if the President would like that. I would then report the outcome of my talk with Monsieur Attali to you before

X.





you saw the President the following morning (and of course Monsieur Attali would have had a chance to take the President's mind also). The object of the exercise would be to come out at the end of the Anglo-French Summit with French agreement to the dates of 8-10 June.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

18 October 1983