

ECON POL.
ECON SUMMIT
(Williamsburg)
P1-13.

cc Stuttgart file

mb

PRIME MINISTER

WILLIAMSBURG AND STUTTGART

Following your meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary today, I have arranged a meeting at 0930 on Tuesday (the Chancellor is away on Monday) to discuss the question of representation at these two events.

Stuttgart

Sir Jock Taylor is seeking an appointment to call on Chancellor Kohl on Thursday of this week. I shall let you have a proposed telegram of instructions tomorrow.

Sir Michael Butler rang today to report that some people in Brussels, including Emile Noël (the Secretary General of the Commission), are beginning to talk about postponing the European Council until after the UK elections - and so as not to put Italian noses out of joint, until after the Italian elections as well. This would mean a meeting right at the end of June. The thought in these peoples minds is that there would be a better chance at the end of June of your agreeing to an increase in own resources, which you would not contemplate during an election campaign.

Postponement until late June would in some ways be a help. But we should not become too excited about the prospect. There has not been the slightest hint from the Germans that they could contemplate this - and the difficulty of getting Heads of Government together for a new date may well be quite insuperable. Nor can we reasonably ask for a postponement since the date of the Council was fixed before our election date.

I have asked the FCO to consider advice on the question of postponement and this will be available tomorrow also.

The Chancellor of Mr. Decheguer told me that he thought that postponement, if it could be achieved, was a very attractive course. ✓
SERB

/ Williamsburg

Williamsburg

I attach a reply from President Reagan to your message. He wants you to go to Williamsburg and suggests that you could attend from noon on the Sunday until the "formal closing" on the Monday. I think we can reply after your meeting next week.

A. J. C.

10 May 1983

STUTTGART AND WILLIAMSBURG

STUTTGART

The report in today's Guardian about Stuttgart bears no relation to either the spirit or the content of my exchanges with the German Chancellor. He is a very good friend of this country and an utterly dependable ally.

We are in close touch with the German Presidency and will announce our plans for representation when we are ready. I should like to go.

WILLIAMSBURG

Again, I should like to go. The Summit does not open for more than another two weeks. We shall announce our plans in good time.

Mr. Ples.

We spoke.

W. Ples



A.S.C. 11/5

h-a

With the compliments of

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

**FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
SW1A 2AH**

POSTPONEMENT OF STUTTGARD

Line to Take

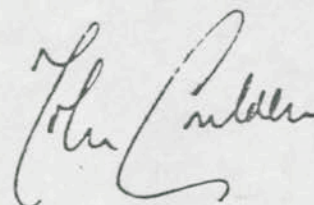
1. (Having ascertained whether Herr Genscher is speaking in the name of Chancellor Kohl, and also whether he is putting a definite proposal or just sounding us out). We regard a decision to postpone as a matter for the Presidency. We are not ourselves asking for such a postponement, nor are we encouraging the Presidency to decide to postpone.
2. On attendance, as the Prime Minister told the Chancellor in her message of 9 May, she has not yet decided whether to attend all or part of the Stuttgart meeting or whether electoral commitments will prevent this. She will be in touch. Meanwhile we have noted the importance he (Genscher) attaches to her attendance if positive results are to be achieved.
3. (If Genscher insists on us giving a view on postponement). What are the views of others? I will naturally consult the Prime Minister again to see whether she wishes to modify the line at para 1 above. ~~I assume you are taking account of the implications of postponement for a situation where there is change of government in the UK as a result of the election?~~

Private Secretary

A.S.C. 1/5.

ATTENDANCE AT THE STUTTGART EUROPEAN COUNCIL

1. Mr John Palmer (Guardian) telephoned me this lunchtime to say that "German sources" in Bonn were putting it about that the Prime Minister had sent a message to Dr Kohl warning that she would probably be able to attend only part of the Stuttgart Summit. Palmer claimed that German sources had been considerably put out by this message, since Mrs Thatcher's absence for part of the Summit would make their Presidency role much more difficult.
2. I said that I could confirm that messages had gone to various friendly governments, including the FRG; that the questions of attendance or representation at Stuttgart had not yet been decided; but that a decision would be announced by the Prime Minister in good time.
3. After talking to Mr Hannay, I think that it would help to reduce the risk of yet another mischievous article by Mr Palmer if we were to go back to him with a rather fuller reply on the following lines:
"The report attributed to German sources is incorrect. The Prime Minister's message to Dr Kohl forecloses no option about attendance or representation at Stuttgart. The Prime Minister will announce her decision in good time."



P J GOULDEN

News Department

11 May 1983

CC: Mr Hannay
ECD(E)
WED
Mr Ingham, No. 10

CC IK

CC JC

CC RC

SW

TB

GS

RESTRICTED

cc Stuttgart file



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 May 1983

Dear John,

A.J.C. 10/5

Williamsburg and Stuttgart

We spoke about a line for use in the House of Commons this afternoon. As you know, Mr Pym looks forward to discussing the question of representation with the Prime Minister. Meanwhile, he would suggest the following:

'We shall of course be represented both at Williamsburg and at Stuttgart. I shall take my decision on Williamsburg in good time before the meeting which starts on 28 May. Similarly, I shall take a decision on Stuttgart nearer the time of the European Council on 6 and 7 June.'

Yours ever,

John

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED