



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 October 1981

You could manage dinner
on 17 May with talks earlier in
the day. Agree to invitation?

Yes not

Dear Michael,

Philly 27/x

During the Anglo-French Summit on 10-11 September, M. Mitterrand said that the French Prime Minister would probably attend the Conference being organised by the Franco-British Council in Edinburgh on 14-16 May next year. M. Pontillon, M. Mauroy's special emissary and now Chairman of the French Section of the Franco-British Council, has confirmed that M. Mauroy is indeed planning to attend the Conference.

It is not yet clear whether he will be able to stay until the Conference ends on Sunday 16 May. If he does, and can make himself free thereafter, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary suggests that we take advantage of M. Mauroy's presence to invite him to pay an official visit immediately after the Conference. This would mean his staying in Britain for as long as four days, and it is of course possible that he will be unable to stay that long. We assume, however, that in view of the Party Conference in Perth on the eve of the Franco-British Council Conference, the Prime Minister would prefer not to invite him to pay a visit during the preceding week. If she is content, we shall therefore ask our Embassy in Paris to explore with M. Mauroy's office the possibility of his travelling to London on 16 May for a full day's programme in London on 17 May, perhaps concluding with a dinner given by the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister could also agree to our offering an alternative date in the preceding week, ie 13 May, this would of course considerably increase the chances of a positive response.

Yours ever,

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
 10 Downing Street



12-6 OCT 1988

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 October 1981

VISIT OF MONSIEUR MAUROY

The Prime Minister has seen Brian Fall's letter to me of 26 October about the visit of the French Prime Minister to this country next May. She would be prepared to see M. Mauroy in London on 17 May and offer him dinner that evening. It would not be possible for her to entertain him the previous week.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

CS

F.N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



10 DOWNING STREET

MR ALEXANDER

Franco/British Council

When you have a minute I think you will have to have a word with Sir Philip de Zulueta about the above. I am not happy about it and if we are not careful we will be bounced. You will see from the file that there is nothing on it after 6 August.

16 October, 1981



please LF to MODBA
on his return from
leave

VLS

10 DOWNING STREET

RF

1/9

6 August 1981

From the Private Secretary

Ryan Francis

Sir Philip de Zulueta telephoned earlier in the week to talk about the Franco-British Council.

He sought confirmation that President Mitterrand had been positive on the subject during the Prime Minister's meeting with him on 29 July; that he had undertaken to send the French Prime Minister if he could not himself be present; and that he had undertaken to ensure that a new French Chairman would be appointed before the September Summit Meeting.

I told Sir Philip that his reports were correct. I undertook to ensure that we would tell him immediately if we heard anything further about the new French Chairman, although it seemed likely that this would not get settled until September.

Sir Philip also came back to the subject of the Prime Minister's attendance at next year's meeting. He obviously still hopes to persuade the Prime Minister to make some kind of serious speech, despite our warnings that her attendance would have to be on the basis that she could not do so. Michael Alexander will need to go over this ground with Sir Philip again when he returns from leave, but if the office is in touch with Sir Philip on these matters over the next few weeks, I hope it will be possible to discourage him from raising his expectations.

I am enclosing copies of a subsequent exchange of letters between the Prime Minister and Sir Philip

Yours sincerely

Michael Pattison

F. N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RF



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Sir Philip,

Many thanks for your letter of 3 August. I do indeed hope that my remarks to the Franco British Council next May need not be long, given my other speaking commitments that month, but I hope to be able to say a few positive words about Anglo/French relations. As you say, it would be best if my office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were to discuss all this with you in more detail after the September Summit.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Sir Philip de Zulueta

Franco British Council BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

3rd August, 1981.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Prime Minister

Franco British Council: Meeting in Edinburgh - May 1982

Thank you very much for your letter of July 27th. I was extremely glad to hear subsequently that you had had a very positive response from President Mitterrand and that he indicated that he would ensure that at least M. Mauroy came to the meeting in May: also that he would arrange to appoint a French Chairman of the Council before your Summit meeting on September 10th and 11th. This is all good news and I shall continue with our preliminary preparations, hoping to know who the new French Chairman is in fairly early September.

As regards your own kind agreement to speak at the Conference I do, of course, understand the difficulty of making two major speeches so close together. I assume that in fact M. Mauroy, or President Mitterrand, if indeed the latter is able to come, would want to make a fairly substantial speech, rather as you did in Bordeaux, and that your remarks need therefore not be long. Perhaps, however, it will be possible for you to make a positive reference to Anglo French relations although not at great length. Anyway it looks as though this should be discussed further after the September Summit.

Yours sincerely

Philip de ...