

PRIME MINISTER

*What date in  
the Football Final?  
mt.*

①

Visit of French Prime Minister  
and Franco-British Council Conference

You have agreed to attend part of the Franco-British Council Conference in Edinburgh on 14-16 May. Sir Philip de Zulueta tells me that there will be a dinner on Friday, 14 May attended and addressed by Lord Carrington and Monsieur Cheysson. Sir Philip is hoping that you and Monsieur Mauroy will attend a reception and dinner on Saturday, 15 May. Sir Philip hopes that you will speak for at least 15 minutes. I have said that since you are addressing the Scottish Party Conference on Friday, 14 May I envisage a substantially shorter speech.

You are not expected to play any other part in the proceedings of the Franco-British Council Conference.

You earlier agreed that we could offer Monsieur Mauroy talks in London on Monday, 17 May. But, as the attached letter from the FCO points out, he may not be able to stay in this country that long. The FCO would therefore like to offer talks in Edinburgh on Sunday, 16 or Saturday, 15 as an alternative. I suggest that you do not offer the Sunday - you could return to London or Chequers from Edinburgh after the dinner on Saturday night and have Sunday free. On the other hand, provided we could find suitable premises, you could offer Monsieur Mauroy talks in Edinburgh at, say, ✓ 11.00 a.m. on the Saturday. This would leave time over lunch and in the afternoon to deal with your short speech that evening. You could decide later whether to stay in Perth on Friday night or drive to Edinburgh after your speech to the Party Conference.

Agree that we may offer Monsieur Mauroy talks in Edinburgh on the Saturday if 17 May (Monday) is inconvenient for him?

*Yes  
mt.*

*A.F.C. 21/12*

21 December 1981





file

ds.  
France

cc Miss Stephens  
et.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 December 1981

Visit of M. Mauroy

You wrote on 9 December.

The Prime Minister agrees that, if M. Mauroy is unable to stay on for talks on Monday, 17 May, he could be offered talks in Edinburgh at, say, 11.00 am on Saturday, 15 May (on the assumption that you can find a suitable venue in Edinburgh for such talks). The Prime Minister expects to return to London from Edinburgh on the evening of 15 May and is thus not inclined to offer talks with M. Mauroy on 16 May.

You should know that I recently discussed with Sir Philip de Zulueta his latest thinking on the arrangements for the Franco-British Council Conference. Sir Philip explained that he envisages a dinner on Friday, 14 May, attended and addressed by Lord Carrington and M. Cheysson. He is then hoping that the Prime Minister and M. Mauroy will attend a reception and dinner on Saturday, 15 May. He is still hoping that the Prime Minister will speak for at least 15 minutes but I have reiterated that, since Mrs. Thatcher is addressing the Scottish Party Conference on Friday, 14 May, I envisage a substantially shorter speech to the Franco-British Council Conference. Sir Philip confirmed that he is not expecting the Prime Minister to play any other part in the proceedings of the Conference.

A. J. COLES

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 December 1981

*Dear John,*

Visit of M. Mauroy

In my letter of 24 November about the Prime Minister's overseas visitors in 1982, I said that M. Mauroy had already accepted an invitation to come on 17 May. I am afraid that this statement was premature. We have it on M. Mitterand's authority that M. Mauroy will attend part at least of the Franco-British Council Conference in Edinburgh on 14 - 16 May, but have delayed obtaining formal confirmation until we could settle the whole of his programme, since informal soundings have suggested that he may find it difficult to stay on for talks on Monday 17 May.

The Ambassador in Paris has therefore asked whether he could be authorised, when putting the date of 17 May to M. Mauroy's office, to offer talks with the Prime Minister, presumably in Edinburgh, on Sunday 16 or Saturday 15 May as a fall-back if M. Mauroy says that he must return to Paris on 16 or 17 May.

We agree with the Ambassador that it would be desirable to offer M. Mauroy a range of options, including weekend timings, if possible. If the Prime Minister can agree we shall instruct Sir Reginald Hibbert to sound M. Mauroy's Cabinet accordingly.

*Yours ever,*

*Francis Pickens*  
(F N Richmond)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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