Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 January 1982

Dear John,

You asked for a few background papers on the Franco-British Council before your lunch tomorrow with Sir Philip de Zulueta, Chairman of the British Section. I enclose a copy of the draft programme for the Edinburgh Conference which the Prime Minister will be addressing, a note on the Council's budgetary position and a copy of the brief prepared for Sir Antony Acland's lunch with Mr Hadley, Director of the British Section, last month.

Sir Philip de Zulueta will wish to fill you in on the details of the Prime Minister's attendance at Edinburgh and is likely to be preoccupied, in general, with arrangements for the Conference. The Council have just been told that their budget for 1982/83 will be limited to £60,000, subject to Parliamentary approval, which is £1,600 less than they had asked for and means that they will have to watch every penny of expenditure on the Conference.

You may wish to stress the importance (reaffirmed at their meeting on 29 July 1981) which the Prime Minister and President Mitterrand attach to the role of the Franco-British Council in general, and not only to the Bordeaux and Edinburgh Conferences which it has organised. You could seek his understanding of the financial constraints which make it impossible to increase the Council's Ordinary budget beyond the requirements imposed by inflation, noting regretfully that this will set limits to the future activities of the Council. You could go on to suggest to Sir Philip the need for the Council to seek additional funding from private concerns. He may prove reluctant to consider this, but you could point out that the Council's work will be hampered if they cannot raise funds beyond our grant in aid.

We should be interested in any feedback you can give us.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne
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Private Secretary

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