

France

20 May 1982

Franco/British Council

You wrote to me on 13 April.

I explained to Philip de Zulueta before the Edinburgh Conference that given the Prime Minister's unavoidable preoccupation with the Falklands crisis it had really been quite impossible to raise with her the suggestion about raising money from prominent businessmen. De Zulueta said that he entirely understood. In view of Sir Michael Palliser's earlier interest, I also told him that I did not think I could press this matter at the present time.

I am quite prepared to do so if an appropriate opportunity presents itself in the future - but I think we shall have to wait for some other Franco/British event.

AJC

R.A. Burns, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 April 1982

A J Coles Esq
10 DOWNING STREET

Dear Sir,

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL

1. Much has happened since you wrote to me on 9 February about your private lunch with Philip de Zulueta. One small development is that it now seems that the FCO may be able to go a bit further than had at one time looked possible towards meeting de Zulueta's financial requirements for running the Franco-British Council. Conferences apart, he reckons that he will need about £50,000 a year to run the ordinary activities of the Council; much of this will go on supporting the Director (James Hadley) and a full-time secretary.
2. We are now prepared to provide £40,000, but this contribution will still leave the Council some £10,000 short each year. One idea that has been canvassed is that of asking an appropriate interest group to sponsor the twice-yearly seminar which the Council holds on a wide variety of topics. This is a good idea, though the Council are reluctant to allow sponsoring groups, firms or individuals too much (or any) say in how the Council conducts its business.
3. That said, we still think here that there might be something to be said for your informal and personal suggestion that the Prime Minister have a word with a prominent businessman (or two) at the time of the Edinburgh Conference. Are you likely to see de Zulueta again before the Edinburgh Conference? If so, you might like to discuss tactics with him.

Yours ever,

Andrews

R. A Burns
Private Secretary to the
Permanent Under Secretary

31 MAR 1982

