



File PMA  
Mr Wicks  
or PC

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*From the Private Secretary*

1 June 1988

ECONOMIC SUMMIT: 1989

Monsieur Attali telephoned me from Paris yesterday to say that President Mitterrand wished to obtain formal agreement to the date of the 1989 Paris Economic Summit while Heads of Government were in Toronto. The French wanted the Summit to begin on Friday 14 July 1989 for obvious historical reasons. They were anxious to keep this secret until the announcement in Toronto in order to achieve maximum impact. They hoped that Sherpas would be in a position to agree the date at their meeting next weekend.

The Prime Minister is disposed to agree. On the whole July suits us better than June, which tends to be a very full month. Although there might be a State visit in mid-July, a Summit on a Friday and Saturday would not interfere with that. Subject to any comments by the Foreign Secretary or the Chancellor, she intends to agree the proposed date. I should be grateful if you could let me know in the course of tomorrow whether there are any objections.

May I repeat that Monsieur Attali particularly asked for this to be kept strictly confidential. It would be better for the letter not to go beyond Private Offices for the time being.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan (H.M. Treasury).

C. D. POWELL

A. C. Galsworthy, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



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PRIME MINISTER

c Mr Wicks  
Mrs Gaisman

**ECONOMIC SUMMIT : 1989**

Monsieur Attali telephoned me from Paris this morning to say that President Mitterrand was very keen to reach agreement on the date of the Paris Economic Summit next year, so that it could be announced in Toronto. The French wanted the Summit to begin on Friday 14 July ie exactly 200 years after the storming of the Bastille. They were anxious to keep this secret until the announcement in Toronto in order to obtain maximum impact. They hoped, however, that Sherpas would be in a position to agree the date at their meeting next weekend. I said that I would consult you. On the face of it, the date does not present any great problems (the Trooping the Colour will be the preceding Saturday 8 July). On the whole July might suit us better than June. June

Content to agree to the next Summit on 14/15 July 1989?

C.D.P

Yes not

CHARLES POWELL

31 May 1988

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