

PRIME MINISTER

CSCE SUMMIT IN PARIS: 19-21 NOVEMBER

You are to attend the CSCE Summit which runs from Monday, 19 November to Wednesday, 21 November in Paris. We have arranged that you would travel over on the Sunday evening so that we do not have a very early start on the Monday morning.

The programme is immensely elaborate. The first morning is devoted to the signing of the CFE Agreement and a formal opening ceremony at which President Mitterrand will hold forth. The Monday afternoon and the Tuesday morning and afternoon are devoted to plenary sessions at which each of the thirty-five Heads of State or Government will speak for up to fifteen minutes. Immensely boring, I fear, but no way to avoid it. You are drawn to speak tenth which will put you on the Monday afternoon.

There is a gala evening at Versailles on the Tuesday evening. On the Wednesday morning there will be the formal signing of the final document and a closing address by (guess who) President Mitterrand. The Summit will end at 1130 a.m.

I suppose it would in theory be possible for you to duck out of the Tuesday altogether and return to London, going back to Paris on the Wednesday morning for the final ceremony. But I fear it would look a bit odd, and would commit you to doing Questions. It is probably easier to stay in Paris and use the time for bilaterals. An alternative would be to duck out of the closing session on the Wednesday morning. President Bush is leaving late on the Tuesday evening. But once again I fear it would probably cause some bad feeling, and if your patience would stand it, it would be better to stay. (President Bush has the excuse that he is flying to the Gulf to visit American forces before Thanksgiving.)

We can of course send regular boxes to you in Paris.

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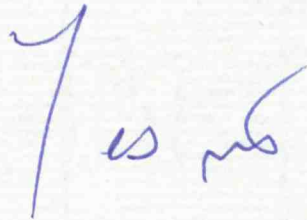
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I think the prime candidates for bilaterals would be President Bush, President Gorbachev, Mr. Lubbers, and Chancellor Kohl, (the latter two in order to discuss prospects for the Rome European Council).

Agree that we should plan for these, adding any others later if there is time?



CDP



2 November 1990

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