



cc BT  
cc P.C. ①  
W.P.U.  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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London SW1A 2AH

*R. Smith*  
11 July 1989

*Dear Charles,*

*CBP 12/7.*

French Bicentenary: 13-14 July, Paris

The Foreign Secretary is unable to leave London until the morning of 14 July because of the Foreign Affairs debate. The Chancellor now plans to travel with him to Paris.

I enclose at Annex 1 a full programme taking account of these changes, of your letter of 6 July and of administrative changes proposed by the French. At Annex 2 is a table showing when and where the Prime Minister last met participating Heads of State/Government, with points to draw on where appropriate. A note on the French Revolution is at Annex 3.

Bilateral Meetings

We are still seeking a slot for the Prime Minister's meeting with President Bush but are confident that one can be found. Meetings have already been arranged for the Prime Minister with Salinas, Sanguinetti, Mubarak, Gandhi and Uno. Mrs Aquino's programme made a formal meeting with the Prime Minister impossible but we have asked the French to adjust placement at a bicentenary meal to enable conversation at table. President Ershad is likely to seek out the Prime Minister in the margins (perhaps at the 14 July Garden Party). There should be opportunities for brief discussion with President Mitterrand. I have sent separate letters with briefing for all these.

The Trocadero Ceremony

On arrival, guests will be greeted by President and Madame Mitterrand and then be escorted to the Musee des Monuments Francais where they will be greeted by M and Mme Rocard. Guests will rejoin President Mitterrand at the Trocadero tribune at 1145 hrs. There will then be a group photographs. The ceremony (1200 hrs) will involve a reading of the Declaration of the Rights of Man, quotations from French authors evoking the Revolution, and a musical programme finishing with Berlioz's Marseillaise.

Bastille Opera

The programme for the opening of the Opera will include three to four minute extracts from 19th century French operas. Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti and Barbara Hendrix will be among the performers. The new Opera's first week of

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performances is being sponsored solely by the French subsidiary of Glaxo. Glaxo's President, Sir Paul Girolami, will be present.

"La Marseillaise" show at the Place de la Concorde/Champs Elysee

This promises to be an unusual spectacle. There is a significant British contingent of military bands. The Prime Minister will be able to watch from the balcony of the Hotel de la Marine. The Foreign and Finance Ministers' dinners are likely to prevent their seeing the show.

Paris Economic Summit

All leaders attending the Bicentenary celebrations are likely to be interested in UK views on Summit prospects. Annex 4 contains a separate set of Summit points for Ministers for any non G-7 contacts. These cover UK objectives on all main subjects likely to be discussed by Summit leaders, including a defensive line on North/South matters. Gandhi, Mubarak, Salinas, Diouf (Senegal) and Andres Perez (Venezuela) in particular may raise the question of the North/South dialogue. We understand that Attali (the French Sherpa) approached India, Venezuela, Senegal and Mexico some time ago about the possibility of launching a North/South initiative (probably focussing heavily on debt) at the Bicentenary and Summit; the Egyptians also seem to have got wind of some French move. But the Indians and the Mexicans (for different reasons) had reservations about Attali's approach. It now appears that the French may have lowered their sights and will at least not try to force a decision (in whatever form) at the Summit itself.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan and Nigel Wicks (HMT) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

*Jan, Stepha*

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