

Ria Austin

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 August 1990

Dear Charles,

Does this sound acceptable, please?

Economic Summit, London 1991

response. CONF/P

Thank you for your letter of 11 July. We are studying the Prime Minister's suggestions for the programme and will put forward detailed proposals.

Yes
no

You also asked for an early recommendation on precise dates. We have checked the UK and international calendars for the period 5-18 July and confirmed that there are no other significant political events which might influence our choice of dates. But we would, of course, expect President Mitterrand to want to be in Paris on 14 July, Bastille Day.

The Palace advise that The Queen has not yet begun to plan her programme for next summer, but the most likely time for her visit to Edinburgh is the first week in July. This would suggest that the earliest possible date would be Tuesday 9 July.

To enable participants from more distant countries to come to London over the weekend, and to avoid a clash with Cabinet on Thursday, there is some advantage in starting the Summit on a Monday, as in Houston. We would, therefore, recommend Monday 15 - Wednesday 17 July.

We understand that the business managers are aiming for the House to rise next year in mid-July. Clearly, if the Prime Minister intended to follow her usual practice of delivering a Statement to the House immediately after the Summit, the timing of the end of the session would need to be arranged to accommodate this.

If the Prime Minister agrees, we would seek The Queen's preliminary agreement to host a dinner on the evening of Tuesday 16 July. We would then propose these dates to the other Summit participants and, if all were able to agree, seek The Queen's formal approval and set in train the necessary arrangements.

We are also considering policy themes, in consultation with Nigel Wicks and relevant Departments. I understand that he hopes to return to you soon with preliminary ideas.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve and Nigel Wicks (HMT).

Jan. Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

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