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Jean Sehn,

Anglo-French Summit: Autumn 1984

It is rather early to be considering dates for the next Anglo-French Summit (autumn 1984) and it is, in theory, for the French to offer dates as hosts. But in advance of considering the Prime Minister's travel plans for 1984 you may welcome a few thoughts on timing in a year which will see a number of meetings with President Mitterrand here and in France.

The Prime Minister will visit France in the first half of the year for the European Councils under the French Presidency (19-20 March and 25-26 June). President Mitterrand will be in London for the Economic Summit on 8-10 June. He will also be here on a State Visit from 23-26 October. It would probably be better to have a month or so gap between the Anglo-French Summit and the State Visit. This consideration would point to a date for the Anglo-French Summit in September or late November.

The Franco-British Council hope to stage their third Conference in Toulouse or Marseilles to coincide with the Anglo-French Summit, and will probably invite the Prime Minister to address them. They are hoping for a September date. We also believe that there might be a competing bid from the Franco-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry who have generally provided a good platform for British Ministers.

We will let you know as soon as we have any indications of French thinking at official level about dates for the Summit. If you would like us, meanwhile, to feed any thoughts in you will doubtless let me know.

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