



10 DOWNING STREET

11th January 1984

Dear Mr Maxwell - Lawford,

FRANCO-BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Thank you very much for your letter of 3rd January in which you ask whether there is any chance of the Prime Minister spending a short time with the Chamber of Commerce during the Franco-British Summit talks.

I am afraid that I am unable to bring you a very definite reply at present. No firm arrangements have yet been made for the Anglo-French Summit, and although you mention October as a date, it is quite likely that the Summit may not take place until nearer the end of 1984. However, we have made a note of your proposal, and will certainly consider the idea nearer the time. Thank you, again, for having written.

Yours sincerely
Michael Alison

MICHAEL ALISON
Parliamentary Private Secretary

N A Maxwell-Lawford Esq

MR. ALISON

*Terna: please draft letter to Barclays
on basis of JX below. MK 4/1*

Franco-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry (your minute attached)

Thank you for consulting me.

I knew about this idea from our Embassy in Paris.

First, the facts. I do not think the next Anglo-French Summit will take place in October. It is particularly complicated next time because it has to be combined with a meeting of the Franco-British Council in either Marseilles or Toulouse. No dates have been agreed. The Prime Minister has recently authorised me to put to the French the suggestion that both events should happen at the end of November - but I have no idea whether the French can accept this - and we should not reveal the possible timing to outsiders.

X/ I think it would be a mistake to make any commitment now about what the Prime Minister might be prepared to do 11 months later. Many things could change. I would not normally consult the Prime Minister about the details of a visit so far ahead and suggest that you reply to the effect that we have noted the proposal but that no firm arrangements have yet been made for the next Anglo-French Summit, which is not likely to take place until near the end of 1984, and that we shall consider this idea nearer the time.

I then suggest that these papers be entered on our Anglo-French Summit files so that the matter is not lost sight of when we come to agree the programme with the French in, perhaps, October of this year.

A. J. C.

10 January 1984

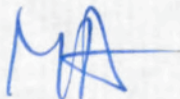
John Coles

Could you please have a look at the enclosed letter from the Barclays Bank Director in Paris.

As the Director's approach is backed by Sir David Price MP I shall be tackled about it in due course in the House of Commons when I next run in to him there.

Would you recommend that the Prime Minister tries to find a moment to make contact with the British business community in Paris, as the letter proposes? In principle it seems to me to be rather a good idea if the programme can accommodate it.

Please advise before I consider an approach to the Prime Minister.



MICHAEL ALISON

10.1.84

Barclays Bank S.A.

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PARIS, LE 3rd January, 1983.^{4?}
33, RUE DU QUATRE SEPTEMBRE (2^e)

The Right Hon. Michael ALISON M.P.,
Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON S.W.1.

Dear Mr Alison,

FRANCO-BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

I trust you will forgive my writing to you direct. Your name was given to me by a close friend, Sir David Price, as I was reluctant to write to the Prime Minister direct.

I have been asked, as Vice-Chairman of the Franco-British Chamber of Commerce, to enquire if there is any chance of the Prime Minister spending a short time with the Chamber of Commerce during the Franco-British summit talks next October. It would be immensely appreciated if Mrs. Thatcher could join us at the Chamber for a cocktail party or just a brief visit, but of course we would be happy to entertain her in any other way if she can spare the time.

The British Ambassador, Sir John Fretwell, with whom we have discussed this plan approves of this proposal but has added that he knows the Prime Minister is extremely busy during such visits.

Would you be kind enough to ask the Prime Minister if she could find time to see us on this occasion ?

*Yours sincerely,
N.A. Maxwell-Lawford*

N.A. MAXWELL-LAWFORD
Resident Director.