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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 November 1985

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT

I have a few random points on the programme for the Anglo-French Summit which you might pass on to those dealing with the arrangements.

- (i) *bf* We need to have rather soon a proposed list of participants on each side at (a) the plenary session and (b) the lunch. In deciding who should be present at the former you will wish to bear in mind the constraints of the Cabinet Room. There is place for a maximum of eleven each side at the table. We could provide chairs for a maximum of five more people in a second row on the French side and three on the United Kingdom side.
- (ii) President Mitterrand may want to confer briefly with his advisers at the end of the plenary and before the press conference. I think that this can only be in the Cabinet Room itself. The United Kingdom side can withdraw to the ante room.
- (iii) Given that the space available in No. 12 Downing Street for the press conference is restricted we shall want to reduce to an absolute minimum attendance by Ministers and officials on both sides. I suggest that six places should be reserved for those French Ministers or senior officials who want to attend, but that the United Kingdom side should abstain from the press conference altogether. Those not attending the press conference might proceed directly upstairs for a rather protracted drink before lunch. The constraints of space will need to be explained to the French in advance.
- (iv) The interpretation facilities at the plenary and at the press conference allow only one interpreter to operate at a time, interpreting both ways. I assume this is acceptable to Mrs Fairweather.
- (v) Finally, I assume that provision will be made for President Mitterrand's interpreter to travel in the car with the President and the Prime Minister from the airport.

CHARLES POWELL

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