

CONFIDENTIALPRIME MINISTERANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT

The briefing meeting for next Monday's Anglo-French Summit is tomorrow. You won't have time tonight to read the briefs, but might just glance at the Steering Brief and the Brief on EC issues in the enclosed folder.

The points which you might discuss at the briefing meeting are:

- (i) Analysis of French Motives. Will they be looking for a moderately constructive outcome? Or a bit of a bust-up? You could ask H M Ambassador Paris for his judgement.
- (ii) Channel Fixed Link. This is clearly the main business issue. The French are keen to commit us to very early progress, including signature of a Treaty - at another Summit - by the end of January. This is unrealistic. We for our part need copper-bottomed assurances that our lorry traffic won't be hindered by French quotas. You will want to ask the Transport Secretary whether he envisages a joint statement at the Summit. If so will it be negotiated in advance?
- (iii) Falklands. This is the other main business issue. The French have said privately - but not so far publicly - that they will support a 'moderate' Argentinian resolution, even though in practice there will be no change in Argentinian ambitions. You will want to ask the Foreign Secretary for arguments which might persuade the French to hold back from openly supporting Argentina.

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- (iv) Inter-Governmental Conference. The questioning line which you took with M. Fabius has served us well and you will want to maintain a certain mystery about our intentions at the European Council. You will want to judge whether President Mitterrand is really looking for agreement at the European Council; and urge him not to 'gang up' with the Germans to present proposals on a take-it or leave-it basis. We hope French officials will continue to work closely with ours.
- (v) East/West Relations. We shall want the firmest available message of support for President Reagan to come out of your meeting just a day before the President and Gorbachev meet in Geneva. Should we try to agree a text with the French in advance?
- (vi) European Fighter Aircraft. President Mitterrand wrote to you (and other Heads of Government) to propose French 'association' with the project. This may be a spoiling tactic. You will want to ask Clive Whitmore's advice. You have not yet replied to Mitterrand's message.
- (vii) Anglo-French Research Foundation. You will remember that Mitterrand proposed the creation of such a foundation during his State Visit but we have not yet taken a position. What should you say at the Summit?

These are the main issues. You might ask whether there are particular points you should be aware of on Eureka, Scientific Cooperation, International Trade, and UNESCO.

Mitterrand may try to get you to attend a Conference in Paris on Deforestation. You will want to parry this.

You could try asking our Ambassador whether it is true that Mitterrand's Labrador dog has just died. Should we offer him another?

C.D.P

C D POWELL

11 November 1985