



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 January 1986

CHANNEL FIXED LINK

Thank you for your letter of 6 January about the arrangements for the visit to Lille. I have also now spoken to Richard Allan.

The proposed programme seems fine. The only problem arises over timing. The Transport Secretary will need to make a statement in the House that afternoon, which will mean leaving Lille at 1330 local time. The options are:

- (a) to stick to the timings at present proposed, with the Transport Secretary peeling off early to return to London;
- (b) to bring the whole programme forward by 30/45 minutes.

I don't think the Prime Minister would mind which it was (though other things being equal she is keen to get back as soon as possible). Could our Embassy please discuss with the French whether they could agree without inconvenience to revise the timings to allow the whole party to leave at 1330.

It would also be helpful to have proposals for attendance at the Lille event. The Prime Minister would wish this to be kept small.

I am copying this letter to Richard Allan (Department of Transport).

(Charles Powell)

L.V. Appleyard, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

LRB

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ce PC
MH



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 January 1986

Dear Charles,

Anglo-French Summit Meeting in Lille on 20 January

We have the following recommendations for travel and working accommodation for the Channel Fixed Link Summit meeting in Lille on 20 January.

Travel

For security reasons a specially fitted RAF VC10 has been reserved for the party. Suggested flight timings are (all times local - UK on GMT; Lille on GMT + 1 hour):

20 January

ETD LHR (Southside) 0835 Flying time: 55 minutes
ETA Lille 1030

VC10 to be on standby at Lille airport from 1430 hours (lunch at Prefecture expected to end by 1430; therefore, if the aircraft were to take off at, say, 1500, ETA LHR would be 1500 - flying time 1 hour).

Working Accommodation

We propose to set up Private Office(s) in the British Consulate in Lille. We await your confirmation that you would be prepared to accept an office there with a direct dial telephone line (plus Brahms) as the sole means of communication. We will, of course, arrange for personnel to carry out any safehand runs to other members of the party if required.

Party

I should be grateful to know the composition of the party from No 10 and any other interested Departments who will accompany the Prime Minister to Lille. From the FCO, we propose the following:

The Foreign Secretary
Private Secretary
Mr Roger Beetham, Head of Maritime, Aviation & Environment Dept
Mr Christopher Meyer, Head of News Department

/No 10

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No 10 Press Office have informed us that seats should be allocated on the aircraft for a press party. We shall be able to let the Press Office have a note of the total number of seats available when it becomes clear how many officials will be travelling in the aircraft.

I am copying this letter to Richard Allen in the Department of Transport.

Your ever,

L V Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 January 1986

Dear Charles,

Channel Fixed Link

Thank you for your letter of 30 December asking for comments on the draft programme for the Channel Fixed Link Anglo/French Summit in Lille on 20 January.

It is clear from this programme that the French anticipate that the Prime Minister would be accompanied by the Foreign Secretary. I can confirm that Sir Geoffrey Howe would indeed wish to attend this occasion. We will be in touch with you in due course about which FCO officials might accompany him.

The programme itself looks fine and we have no particular comments upon it. The Secretary of State would certainly welcome the opportunity of a brief tete-a-tete with M Dumas before the press conference.

I am copying this letter to Richard Allen in the Department of Transport, who I understand may be suggesting bringing the performance forward by half an hour or so to enable either the PM or Secretary of State for Transport to make a statement in the House that afternoon.

Yours ever,

L Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

PM TOURS ABOARD
VISIT TO FRANCE

DEC 85



Faint handwritten text, possibly 'Paris 1840'.

Faint handwritten text, possibly 'James' and 'Le...'. The text is upside down relative to the rest of the page.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 December 1985

FIXED CHANNEL LINK

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received from the French Chargé d'Affaires containing a draft programme for the Prime Minister's visit to Lille on 20 January. I should be grateful for any comments which you or Richard Allan, to whom I am also copying this letter and enclosure, have before I put it to the Prime Minister.

(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

GA

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
LONDRES

30th December 1985

Dear Mr Powell,

I have just received the enclosed programme
for the Prime Minister's visit to Lille on January 20th.

May I ask you to forward it to her and to
keep me informed of any observation she would wish to
make regarding our suggestions ?

Yours sincerely

Bouillane de Lacoste

Jean-Noël de Bouillane de Lacoste

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Charles Powell, Esq.,
Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.

CC PC
MH

Suggested programme for the summit meeting in Lille

(20 January 1985)

- 10 h 25 The President of the French Republic lands at Lille airport.
- 10 h 30 The British Prime Minister lands at Lille airport
Welcome - Departure for the Préfecture.
- 10 h 45 Tête-à-tête at the Préfecture

Possibility of parallel encounters between the Cabinet
members
(Foreign Affairs and Transports)
- 11 h 30 End of the talks

Departure for the Town Hall
- 11 h 45 The results of the bid are made public

Press conference
- 12 h 30 End of the Press Conference

Return to the Préfecture
- 13 h 00 Lunch at the Préfecture (for a limited number of guests)
- 14 h 30 End of lunch

The British Prime Minister leaves for the airport
The President of the French Republic leaves for Paris.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 December 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received from the French Charge d'Affaires in which he conveys a proposal by President Mitterrand that he and the Prime Minister should meet in Calais on 30 January to announce the choice of project for the Channel bridge or tunnel.

There are two points to be considered:

- (i) Are we content for the Prime Minister to go to Calais for this purpose? Or will this cause difficulties with our own Channel ports?
- (ii) The Prime Minister cannot manage 30 January which is a day for Cabinet and Questions among other things. We should much prefer 20 January which we have already blocked off for this purpose.

I should be grateful for early advice.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Richard Allan (Department of Transport).

(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SMC

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
LONDRES

4th December 1985

Dear Mr. Powell,

As a follow-up to the November 18th Summit, President Mitterrand suggests that the Prime Minister and he meet in Calais on January 30th, in order essentially to make public their common choice of a fixed link project.

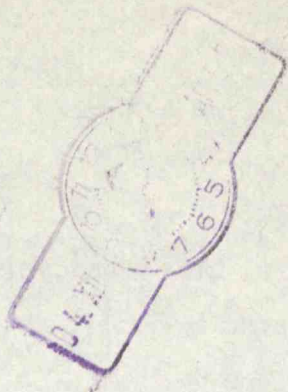
May I ask you kindly to forward this proposal to your Prime Minister, and let me know if these date and venue are acceptable ?

Yours sincerely,

Rouille de Lacoste

Jean-Noël de Bouillane de Lacoste
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Charles D. Powell, Esq.,
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,
Prime Minister's Office,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.



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