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PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL MEETING WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS

Could I possibly ask you to look again at the question of meetings with Chirac and Kohl before the European Council.

I think there is a good case for a meeting with Chirac. We only got a solution on our budget contribution at Fontainebleau because you got the French working with us. The same will apply this time round: we shall only sort out future financing by arrangement with the French - although this time it is Chirac rather than Mitterrand who will have the greater say. Chirac for his part is very keen to see you and it would be a pity to turn him down. Certainly we cannot say that a meeting will ensure a satisfactory outcome at Copenhagen, which on balance remains unlikely. But I think we can say that there is no chance of a satisfactory solution unless you meet beforehand.

Against this, I absolutely understand your reluctance to give up yet more time when you already have a grindingly hard programme this autumn. When all is said and done, the most important thing is not to overburden you.

If you decide that you will see Chirac in Paris the two possible dates are:

- the early evening of Sunday 22 November. This would mean in practice giving up the whole of your Sunday afternoon and evening. The 'advantages' are that it is after the Lord Mayor's Banquet, is still far enough ahead of the European Council to let the results filter through, and is immediately before Chirac's own session with Schluter. Chirac cannot manage Saturday 21 November to which you earlier agreed, since he is in Reunion in the Indian Ocean campaigning.

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- Saturday 28 November. This seems to me less good. A Saturday meeting breaks up your weekend more, you are away immediately beforehand and it is a bit close up against the European Council itself. But it is certainly manageable if you prefer it.

The question of a meeting with Kohl is subsidiary. There is not usually a great deal to be gained by discussing EC matters with him bilaterally. The idea of a meeting really only arises if you decide that, having crossed the Channel, you may as well kill two birds with the one stone.

I attach a copy of the diary for the relevant period, to help you decide.

Agree to see Chirac on 22 November or 28 November.

Agree to pursue idea of a meeting with Kohl the same day?

OR

Prefer to drop meeting with Kohl?

C.D.P.

22 November - Chirac

I don't think it is possible to see Kohl without compromising the time with Chirac.  
 not

C. D. POWELL  
30 October 1987

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 October 1987

Original filed on

Germany: Meetings with  
Chancellor Kohl. P77.

Dear Charles,

Anglo-French and Anglo-German Summits

The French Embassy have now confirmed to us that Friday 29 January is acceptable as the date for the Anglo-French Summit.

Our Embassy in Bonn spoke again late last week to the Federal Chancellery about dates for the Anglo-German Summit. The Chancellery said that they would get in direct contact with you. I hope they have now done so.

Yours ever,

(L Parker)  
Private Secretary

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C.D.P.  
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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH M. CHIRAC

You agreed in principle that you would be ready to go over to Paris one Saturday in the second half of November for a meeting with M. Chirac ahead of the European Council.

It now turns out that he cannot manage either of the Saturdays. He has counter-proposed an early working supper on Sunday 22 November. He envisages you getting to Paris at about 1600-1630 and leaving at 1930-2000. It would be quite timely since he goes to Copenhagen to see the Danish Presidency the following day.

Agree to this?

*Agree.*

There is then the separate question of whether you would want me to see if Chancellor Kohl could manage a meeting on the morning of 22 November.

May I pursue this?

*No*

*no*

*C.D.P.*

C.D.P.

28 October 1987

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PRIME MINISTERMEETING WITH M. CHIRAC

M. Chirac is pressing you to have a half-day meeting with him, possibly at a weekend, in Paris before the European Council. The technical possibilities, if you are prepared to consider it, are:

Saturday 21 November

Sunday 22 November

Saturday 28 November

Sunday 29 November

You have to be in London for President Cossiga's dinner on Friday, 20 November. That could point to going to Paris for a morning meeting on Saturday 21 November, returning to go direct to Chequers that afternoon.

You might I suppose want to go on to Germany to see Chancellor Kohl for the other half of the day. The need to discuss EC matters ahead of the European Council would be quite a good cover for tackling him on the world economy and perhaps also on European defence.

Would you be prepared to consider something on these lines?

C.D.P.

Yes

CHARLES POWELL  
26 October 1987