

PRIME MINISTER

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

Monsieur Attali telephoned me this afternoon to say that President Mitterrand very much wanted to have a private and informal meeting with you over lunch in the reasonably near future, on the lines of those you had about a year ago. It would involve only the two of you, Monsieur Attali and me. The President would like to invite you across to France for this, perhaps to somewhere close to the Channel to minimise the travelling time for you. He proposed 18 or 22 November.

I said that I knew you would be grateful to the President for his invitation and I thought you would certainly value a talk. You had found last autumn's sessions very useful. Unfortunately both 18 and 22 November were impossible for you. Indeed, it would probably be impossible to find any date before 22 November.

Monsieur Attali expressed disappointment at this. The President very much wanted to see you ahead of the European Council. He would look again at the President's diary and try to suggest an alternative date. He subsequently came back with the suggestion of Wednesday 30 November (which is only shortly before the European Council on 2/3 December).

I attach relevant pages from the long-term diary. As you will see, it would not be impossible to go over to France fairly early that day, have a talk and early lunch and be back in time to do the "A New Look for London" book launch in the afternoon (the timing of that is flexible) and drinks with MPs in the evening. A possible alternative might be Wednesday 23 November if you did not mind being away for the second day of the Debate on the Address. But I do not know whether President Mitterrand could manage it.

You have found these meetings useful in the past and it would be a pity to seem to rebuff President Mitterrand. On the other hand, the timing is far from convenient and the motive for the sudden meeting unclear. There is probably some deep French reason.

Agree to a meeting and lunch with Mitterrand?

Accept 30 November?

Or prefer to propose 23 November?

Or say you simply cannot manage dates before December?

C.D.?

Charles Powell

12 October 1988

CP
PM agreed
31 Oct

COOP told PM's
decision 13/10
ECU

PRIME MINISTER

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

proceeded she
would be back in
good time for the
event receipt
NW

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Agree to a meeting and lunch with Mitterrand?

Yes

Accept 30 November?

Or prefer to propose 23 November?

} *Letter - whatever
sub him.*

Or say you simply cannot manage dates before December?

C.D.P

Charles Powell

12 October 1988

Thursday, 17 November

RETURN TO NO.10

Friday, 18 November

0930 Professor Griffiths
 Lunch Keep free for TG
 Keep free for speechwriting
 Overnight at No.10

Saturday 19 November

ADDRESS UK FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
 WOMEN - LONDON
 KEEP FREE?

Sunday 20 November

1200 KEEP FREE

Monday 21 November

0800 Hair
 1000 Week Ahead Meeting
 1030 Diary Meeting
 1215 Meeting of Colleagues
 1300 followed by lunch
 1430 Keep free for speech
 1930 for KEEP FREE?
 2000
 KEEP FREE?

Tuesday 22 November

0900-1030 Keep free for speech
 1100 KEEP FREE
 1130 STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT
 LUNCH KEEP FREE
 1430 DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS
 1715 RETURN TO NO. 10
 ATTEND DINNER TO MARK LORD FORTE'S 80th BIRTHDAY
 GROSVENOR HOUSE +DT

Wednesday 23 November

KEEP FREE ?
 1600 Interview with She Magazine + TP
 1700 Chancellor of the Exchequer +PG
 1730 Foreign Secretary +CDP
 1800 LOOK IN AT LEAVING PARTY FOR SIR ANTHONY GARNER
 1830 KEEP FREE

Thursday 24 November

1730 Moderator of the Church of Scotland +RC
 1830-1900 LOOK IN AT LADY PORTER'S RECEPTION + JW
 RETURN TO NO.10
 2000 for Dinner for Chief of Defence Staff No.10
 2015

Friday 25 November

0930 Professor Griffiths +PG
 1000 Sir Robin Butler +NLW
 1045 German Ambassador to say farewell + CDP
 1100 Keep free?
 LUNCH WITH BRITISH SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE
 DISABLED +DT

Saturday 26 November

Sunday 27 November

? KEEP FREE + DT

Monday 28 November

0830 Hair
 1000 Week Ahead Meeting
 1030 Diary Meeting
 1100 PLANT A TREE TO MARK NATIONAL TREE WEEK
 1145 RETURN TO NO.10
 1200 Mr. Papandreou +CDP
 1300 Working lunch for Mr. Papandreou + CDP No.10
 1600 Sir Angus Fraser +NLW
 1630-1730 Value for Money Seminar

Tuesday 29 November

0900 Questions Briefing
 0930 Lord Young +PG
 1000 Keep free for speech
 1300 Lunch and Questions Briefing
 1515 QUESTIONS
 1545 CRANLEY ONSLOW +MLB
 1600 KEEP FREE FOR MPs
 1700-1800 Interview with "Beeld" + CDP
 1830 AUDIENCE

Wednesday 30 November

1030 LAUNCH "A NEW LOOK FOR LONDON" +DM?
 Lunch Keep free for TG [no engagement]
 1430 Keep free for speech + PG [Ten per cent Club]
 1700 Chancellor of the Exchequer +PG
 1730 Foreign Secretary +CDP
 1800-1900 Drinks with MPs +MLB
 c1915 LOOK IN AT RECEPTION FOR MARGARET PYKE TRUST

Thursday 1 December

0830 Hair
 0900 Questions Briefing Team
 1030 Cabinet?
 1300 Lunch and Questions Briefing
 1515 QUESTIONS
 1545 KEEP FREE FOR MPs
 1700 Keep free for briefing + CDP
 Supper in Flat

Keep free for packing

Friday, 2 - Saturday 3 December
EUROPEAN COUNCIL - RHODES

Sunday 4 December
Keep free for speech writing? + PG

Monday 5 December

0830 Hair
1000 Week Ahead Meeting
1030 Diary meeting
1100 Keep free for speech writing + PG
1215 Meeting with Colleagues
1300 followed by Lunch
1530 Admiral Fieldhouse + CDP
1600 Mr Rocard
1830 Reception for NSPCC No.10
c2015 "NEW BOYS" DINNER ST. STEPHEN'S CLUB

Tuesday, 6 December

0900 Questions Briefing Team
0930 Keep free for Briefing
1000-1100 Interview with US News and World Reporter +TP
1300 Lunch and Questions Briefing
1515 QUESTIONS
1545 KEEP FREE FOR MPs
1700 Chancellor of the Exchequer +PG
1730 Foreign Secretary +CDP
1830 AUDIENCE

Wednesday, 7 December
REGIONAL TOUR

Thursday 8 December

0830 Hair
0900 Questions Briefing Team
1030 Cabinet
1300 Lunch and Questions Briefing
1515 QUESTIONS
1545 KEEP FREE FOR MPs and/or speech
1700-1930 ADDRESS PER CENT CLUB + PG
RETURN TO NO.10

Friday 9 December

0930 Professor Griffiths +PG
1000 Sir Robin Butler +NLW
1100 Sir Angus Fraser +NLW
1130-1230 Value for Money Seminar
Lunch in Flat
FINCHLEY
TO CHEQUERS

CONFIDENTIAL



Me PM2 ART
c/c

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 October 1988

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

Monsieur Attali telephoned me yesterday evening to say that President Mitterrand would very much like a private and informal meeting on the pattern of those held in 1986 and 1987. He envisaged a talk over lunch, attended only by the President, the Prime Minister, Monsieur Attali and me. He would like to invite the Prime Minister to come to France for this and would propose a site close to the Channel, so as to minimise travelling time. After consulting the Prime Minister, I have told Monsieur Attali that the Prime Minister accepts the invitation with pleasure for 30 November. I have informed H.M. Ambassador, Paris. I understand that the French are likely to announce the meeting today.

1/BF

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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