

cc/c



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 October 1989

Mr. Powell
You may want
to discuss this with
the Prime Minister.

Jean-Jacques, *RACG 20/10*

Send
Please ask
Amend to
put dates
to us

Anglo-French Summit: 1990

The last annual Anglo-French Summit took place in France on 27 February 1989. It will be our turn to host it next year. It would be helpful to put dates to the French soon, and to know the Prime Minister's views on participation and venue.

Timing

As in previous years, the most convenient days seem to be Mondays and Fridays, thereby avoiding a clash with Cabinet, Prime Minister's Questions and French Cabinet (on Wednesdays). From a purely practical point of view, a Friday seems preferable: the inevitable last-minute hitches are more easily straightened out from the office.

FW in the
period at X. before

a Friday.

CR

It would also seem sensible to avoid clashes with other major commitments in the period in question. These include the Anglo-German Summit (29-30 March); the Easter Parliamentary Recess (12-23 April); an informal meeting of EC Foreign Ministers (28-29 April); a WEU Ministerial meeting (30 April - 1 May); a Foreign Affairs Council meeting (7-8 May); a possible visit to Paris by HM The Queen Mother (around 15 May - likely senior French involvement); and the Calais and Dunkirk celebrations in the last week of May (President Mitterrand is likely to attend). This suggests that the period from 27 April to 11 May, but preferably avoiding 30 April-1 May and 7-8 May, might be the most convenient.

X)

Participation

In 1988, when we last hosted the Summit, the participants were the Prime Minister, the Foreign, Home and Defence Secretaries, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of Agriculture, Lynda Chalker and Francis Maude. The last four did not participate this year; but the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry did. It is too early to decide on participation but we might keep it down to a relatively small team this time.

/Venue

Venue

Particularly if the Summit takes place in the spring, we could consider a venue outside London. It would help to work in some more visible public event alongside the talks, to give the occasion more of a profile and perhaps show President Mitterrand some striking British achievement. If the Prime Minister favours the idea of an outside venue or some outside element to the programme, we could produce recommendations. The Prime Minister may have a venue in mind already.

I am copying this letter to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Y
John Eve,

R H T Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

Dominic Morris Esq
10 Downing Street



File
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PK

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From the Private Secretary

9 November 1989

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT

You wrote to Dominic Morris on 20 October about dates for the Anglo-French Summit in 1990. The date which would be most manageable from the Prime Minister's point of view would be Friday 4 May. I agree that we should aim for relatively limited Ministerial participation. I think the Prime Minister would be open to a suggestion for an outside venue or at least some outside element to the programme. But previous attempts to come up with something have not been very successful, so I see little point in approaching her on the principle until we know what we can offer in practice.

(C.D. POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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MR. POWELL ✓

Let's try
or

I have offered Friday 4 May to the Foreign Office for next year's Anglo-French Summit. However, I have left it to them to check that Lee Kuan Yew (who was offered this date as an alternative to 25 May) will not be visiting the UK at that time. They will come back to me about this in a day or so.

Amanda

AMANDA

24.10.89

Charles

Richard Gogney has confirmed that Lee Kuan Yew will come on 25 May. We can therefore go for an Anglo-French summit on 4 May. AP 2/11