



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL London SW1A 2AH

21 March 1990

Jean Charles,

Anglo-French Summit: 4 May *Jay*

Thank you for your letter of 21 February. You may have seen Paris telno 284 (copy enclosed). We had a planning meeting with the French Embassy and a preliminary trip to Waddesdon on 14 March. Peter Bean was on the latter.

Participation

HMA Paris suggests two possibilities: wide participation involving up to eight ministers on each side; or a more restricted line-up including only the Foreign and Defence Secretaries, with the possible addition of the Chancellor and M Bérégovoy (although the latter are meeting anyway on 15 May). Our preference would be for the second option. The French Embassy here, who may not be fully up to speed with the latest thinking in Paris, see a possible role for Ministers of State for European affairs. But Foreign Ministers can cover European issues.

Agenda

We have nothing to add to Sir E Fergusson's recommendations:

- consequences of German unification;
- developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe;
- security issues;
- EC issues
- regional issues.

Programme

Our discussions with the French have produced an outline programme on the following lines:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| - 1000-1130 | Bilateral Talks |
| - 1145-1230 | Plenary Session |
| - 1245 (for 1300)-1430 | Lunch |
| - 1430-1500 | Further Tête à Tête Session if necessary |
| - 1500-1545 | Press Conference |
| - 1545-1645 | Tour of Waddesdon Manor |

/The

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The French were keen to allow for a short break after lunch, described above as "Further Tête à Tête Talks". This perhaps reflects indications from Paris that President Mitterrand would welcome a break in the programme. Although it is normal to hold the press conference rather earlier than 1500, there seems no scope for bringing it forward.

Interpretation

We are working on the basis of consecutive interpretation in the bilateral talks and the Principals' lunch; and simultaneous interpretation for the plenary session and the press conference.

Security

British and French security experts will want to check the arrangements without disturbance the day before the Summit, and the Thames Valley Police will wish to conduct a thorough search of the Manor House. This will mean closing the house to the public from Wednesday 2 May (to lay out the meeting rooms, install the equipment etc), and the house and grounds on the day of the Summit itself. The Administrator at Waddesdon advises us that the house would also have to be closed on the Saturday, as it will not have been re-arranged by then. This will affect the cost (see below).

Accommodation

We have identified rooms suitable for the Prime Minister's meeting with President Mitterrand, for three other bilateral meetings, for the plenary meeting, for the Principals' lunch (for a maximum of 18), for lunches for senior officials and support staff and for French and British office accommodation (including retiring rooms); and for the French communications. We shall need to arrange for telephones, photocopiers, etc to be installed in the two working offices.

Transport

The Queen's flight Wessex helicopter will be able to land close to the main entrance of Waddesdon; the two Pumas will land a short distance away on the estate. The occupants will be transferred to the manor by car. We assume that the Prime Minister would wish us to arrange for a ceremonial Carpet Guard on arrival at Waddesdon rather than at Northolt, where President Mitterrand will merely transfer from his aircraft to the helicopter. Waddesdon would be more photogenic.

/Press

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Press

There is no room large enough at Waddesdon (or at Eythrope) to hold the Press Conference. This will therefore have to take place in a marquee on the lawns in front of the manor. The press centre could be set up away from the estate, perhaps in the village of Waddesdon.

Cost

The Waddesdon Administrator has told us, apparently on the instructions of Mr Rothschild, that they will not charge us a facility fee. We shall, however, have to reimburse them for loss of revenue over the four days, estimated at £12,500. To this will need to be added the hire of a marquee and the installation of equipment in the two private offices. By way of comparison Leeds Castle would have cost £20,000 inclusive of catering which at Waddesdon will fall to GHF. Additional costs common to both include interpretation, transport and press facilities.

I am copying this letter to Brian Hawtin (MOD) John Gieve (HMT) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

R. Howard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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FOR WED

KERSHAW'S LETTER OF 26 FEBRUARY TO HEAD OF CHANCERY:
ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT, 4 MAY

SUMMARY

1. THE OBVIOUS THEME FOR THE SUMMIT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMANY AND FURTHER EAST FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY AND THE COMMUNITY - AND FOR ANGLO-FRENCH COOPERATION. THIS ARGUES FOR RESTRICTED PARTICIPATION.

DETAIL

2. WE HAVE CONTACTED THE ELYSEE TO CONFIRM THAT THE SUMMIT WILL TAKE PLACE AT WADDES DON MANOR AND HAVE GIVEN THEM DETAILS ABOUT ARRIVAL AT NORTHOLT AND THE TIMING OF THE HELICOPTER JOURNEY TO WADDES DON. THE REACTION BY OFFICIALS WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE CHOICE OF VENUE.

3. IN SUCH A FAST-MOVING SITUATION THE PRECISE AGENDA WOULD PROBABLY BEST BE DECIDED NEARER THE TIME. BUT IT SEEMS BOTH INEVITABLE AND RIGHT THAT THE MAIN THEME OF THE SUMMIT SHOULD BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF GERMAN UNIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE, BOTH FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY AND FOR THE COMMUNITY. IT IS CERTAINLY THE SUBJECT WHICH MOST PREOCCUPIES PRESIDENT MITTERRAND. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO COVER THE FULL RANGE OF SECURITY (NATO, CSCE, BILATERAL DEFENCE COOPERATION) AND EC (INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL) ANGLES AS WELL AS TOUCHING BRIEFLY ON ANY BURNING ISSUES OUTSIDE EUROPE IN WHICH WE AND/OR THE FRENCH HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST, EG SOUTH AFRICA, AND FOR THEM LEBANON.

4. THE FRENCH WILL BE SENSITIVE ABOUT SEEING THIS SUMMIT REFERRED TO PUBLICLY AS BEING ABOUT GERMANY. THEY WILL PROBABLY WISH TO STICK TO A BLANDER DESCRIPTION OF IT AS A REGULAR EXCHANGE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL ON CURRENT INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL ISSUES, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON EUROPEAN QUESTIONS.

5. ON PARTICIPATION THERE ARE 2 BROAD POSSIBILITIES:

A) A WIDE RANGE OF MINISTERIAL PARTICIPATION PROVIDING SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS ON ALL MAJOR ASPECTS OF GERMAN UNIFICATION, INCLUDING, BEYOND THE THREE PAIRS ALREADY AGREED (PRIME MINISTER/MITTERRAND, FOREIGN SECRETARY/DUMAS, DEFENCE SECRETARY/CHEVENEMENT), MINISTERS OF FINANCE, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND INTERIOR.

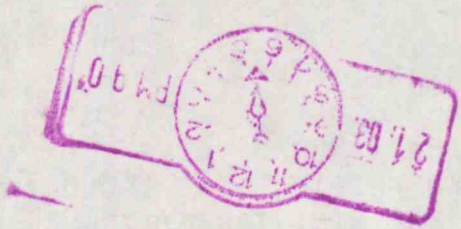
B) TO RESTRICT PARTICIPATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN AND DEFENCE SECRETARIES ON OUR SIDE, IDEALLY TOGETHER WITH THE CHANCELLOR AND M. BEREGOVY, (BUT THEY ARE ALREADY PLANNING TO MEET BILATERALLY ON 15 MAY AND MINISTERS OF FINANCE HAVE RARELY ATTENDED BILATERAL SUMMITS.)

6. A) WOULD BE MORE COMPREHENSIVE. BUT THE PLENUM WOULD BE LENGTHY AND WITHOUT REAL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, AND THE LARGE NUMBERS WOULD BE UNWIELDY. ALTHOUGH DRUGS AND THE ENVIRONMENT ARE ON PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S MIND, I SHOULD NOT SUGGEST ADDING TO MINISTERIAL PARTICIPATION TO COVER THEM, SINCE THAT COULD DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THE MAIN POLITICAL ISSUES. THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS MORE TO THE TASTE OF THE ELYSEE (AND FOR THAT MATTER THE QUAI ON THIS OCCASION), WHO TELL US THAT IT IS THE INFORMAL AND INTIMATE STYLE OF THE BEST CONTACTS WITH THE BRITISH WHICH IS MOST ATTRACTIVE TO MITTERRAND. THERE IS A HINT THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD FIND A LONGISH AND MECHANICAL PLENARY SESSION BORING. THE PLENUM OF 6 OR 8 ROUND THE TABLE WOULD STAND A REASONABLE CHANCE OF PERMITTING A REAL TO AND FRO OF IDEAS, BUILDING ON THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND MITTERRAND IN JANUARY, AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS BETWEEN FOREIGN AND DEFENCE MINISTERS.

7. I DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT ROCARD BE INVITED, GIVEN THE PRESIDENT'S ACKNOWLEDGED RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ROCARD WOULD BE A SPARE WHEEL, AND A SLIGHTLY AWKWARD ONE TO HANDLE, SINCE HE WOULD NOT FIT INTO THE STRUCTURE OF BILATERALS. BUT IT IS NOT TO BE EXCLUDED THAT HE WOULD WANT TO COME AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD WANT HIM. THERE ARE SENSITIVITIES HERE AND WE SHALL NEED TO TAKE SOUNDINGS OF THE ELYSEE NEARER THE TIME.

FERGUSON

YYYY



FRANCE ;

visits of Litterand at 7

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file
clwpdast/foreign
Fred (mem)
bcc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

22 March 1990

Dear Richard,

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT

Thank you for your letter of 21 March about the arrangements for the Anglo-French Summit.

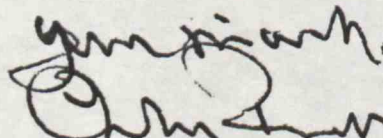
As regards participation, I think that the Prime Minister's preference would be for the more restricted format. The agenda recommended by Sir Ewen Fergusson is perfectly all right.

Turning to the programme, I am sure the Prime Minister would like to get the press conference over before lunch, even if that means having lunch rather late. Could we not put it in from 1240-1330 and then go straight to lunch? Or perhaps even bring the whole morning programme forward by 15-30 minutes? The President could then have his break after a lunch - or a walk in the grounds which he sometimes prefers - followed by the tour of the house.

The interpretation, security arrangements and accommodation seem admirable. Participation at the lunch should be the President and the Prime Minister, other Ministers, two (or at the most three) members of President Mitterrand's staff and PS\PM. I think - but will check to be sure - that the Prime Minister would like Mr. and Mrs. (or now Lord and Lady) Rothschild to be present for lunch and the tour of the house.

The transport arrangements are fine and I agree that the ceremonial carpet guard should be at Waddesdon rather than Northolt. We shall need to decide whether the Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary should meet the President at Northolt. I think the Prime Minister would probably prefer to greet him at Waddesdon, getting there a bit early so that she can run an eye over the arrangements. But this will require a helicopter from here.

I am most grateful for the work which has already gone into this. I am copying this letter to Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence), John Gieve (HM Treasury) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).


CHARLES POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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