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10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SWIA 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 June 1991

Dear Christophe,

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT

This is to confirm that the Prime Minister is content to go ahead with arrangements for the Anglo-French Summit on 24 June on the basis set out in my letter of 4 June.

The Prime Minister would be grateful if the Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Defence Secretary and Mr. Garel-Jones could take part in the talks on our side.

I should be grateful if you could now work up a detailed logistical programme. I think it will probably be quickest for the Prime Minister to go by helicopter both ways. He would be accompanied by Gus O'Donnell and myself, plus support staff from No. 10.

I am copying this letter to Jeremy Heywood (HM Treasury), Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

J. S. WALL

Christopher Prentice, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SWIA 2AA

From the Private Secretary

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4 June 1991

Dea Chiesphe.

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT

Pierre Morel (Elysée) telephoned this evening with the following proposal for the Anglo-French Summit.

Apart from the President and the Prime Minister, Morel proposed that the participants should be Foreign, Defence, Economic and European Affairs Ministers. This means on the French side: M. Dumas, M. Joxe, M. Bérégovoy and Madame Guige.

The talks will be in Dunkirk and Morel proposed that the Ministers, apart from the President and Prime Minister, should start their talks at about 1030. The President and the Prime Minister should meet at 1300 and have a private talk until 1345 when they would be joined, for a working lunch, by the other Ministers. Lunch would finish by 1500. There would be a plenary session from 1500-1600. There would be a press conference at 1600 and the Prime Minister could fly back to London at 1630 (all times local). Morel said that there could not be a Channel Tunnel event on this timescale, but he hoped that the Prime Minister might return for the originally planned Channel Tunnel event on 29 July.

I shall be putting this plan to the Prime Minister overnight. I think he will want to go ahead on this basis on 24 June. Some reshuffling of the diary would be required if he were to be able to go back to France on 29 July. I shall write separately on this.

I am copying this letter to Jeremy Heywood (HM Treasury), Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence) and to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

J. S. WALL

Christopher Prentice, Esq. Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SWIA 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 May 1991

Dea Chistophe,

ANGLO FRENCH SUMMIT

Pierre Morel (Elysee) told me on the telephone this evening that the French had run into difficulties over the timing of the Anglo French Summit. The meeting in the morning in Dunkirk would be very difficult for the President. Would it be possible for the Prime Minister to postpone his departure in the afternoon or indeed to come for talks in the afternoon staying for dinner? Morel did not say why but I was left with the impression that the President simply is not an early starter.

I said the second option was impossible because of engagements in London. We might be able to stretch the Prime Minister's departure time a bit so he left for London at 1645 French time. But we could not stretch things beyond that.

Morel said he would come back to me but it might be that the venue of the talks would have to be transferred to Paris. Might it then be possible for the Prime Minister to come over again for a specific Channel Tunnel event in July?

I said that of course the venue of the talks was up to the French. We would have to look again at the Prime Minister's diary for July and I would of course have to consult him. To find time in July would not be easy.

I think the Prime Minister could manage a 1645 departure from French soil if he went by helicopter directly back to central London. You are already kindly looking into this possibility.

Earlier in the day Sir Alistair Morton telephoned me to suggest that the President and the Prime Minister might together go by helicopter from Dunkirk to the Tunnel entrance near Calais. They might go down the main shaft for a photo opportunity. The President could then take leave of the Prime Minister who could helicopter back to London, perhaps stopping off for a photocall at the UK end of the Tunnel. Perhaps Dumas might accompany him for this part of the journey. This certainly struck me as a possibility but I see no point in taking things any further until we have heard back from the French on where the Summit is to be held.

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence), Jeremy Heywood (H.M. Treasury), Simon Whiteley (Department of Transport) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

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J S WALL

Christopher Prentice Esq Foreign and Commonwealth Office



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10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SWIA 2AA be PC

From the Private Secretary

15 May 1991

Dea Christophe.

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT: 24 JUNE

When I spoke to Piere Morel (Elysee) this morning I asked him whether French thinking on the Anglo-French Summit on 24 June had developed. Piere Morel confirmed that the French were thinking of Dunkirk as the site. He said that the French were thinking of rather a limited participation though he did not go into detail.

If it is possible for the Embassy in Paris to get any clarification on this it would be very helpful. The Foreign Secretary, the Defence Secretary and the Chancellor are on standby to attend but will obviously want to know sooner rather than later where things stand. Equally, if the French decide to extend the participation (which seemed to be their original idea) the sooner we can let other Secretaries of States know the better.

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence), Kate Gaseltine (HM Treasury) and to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

(J. S. WALL)

Christopher Prentice, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office. CONFIDENTIAL



bc: Savra Philips Farice Richards

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SWIA 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3 April 1991

Dea anistophe,

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT

As you know, I have been in touch with Pierre Morel in the Elysee about the date for the Anglo-French Summit. We can now go firm on Monday, 24 June, the only date which both the President and the Prime Minister can manage before the European Council. The French will no doubt be in touch about the place and the exact time. I have told Morel the Prime Minister could travel to France early on the Monday morning and that he will have to leave after lunch. We should aim to touch down in the UK no later than 1600 BST. The Prime Minister needs to be back in the House of Commons by 1700.

The French will write to the Foreign and Defence Ministers in accordance with the usual practice. Morel told me that the French might propose widening the participation to mark the occasion as something special. He said they would be in touch again on this point.

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence), Jeremy Heywood (HM Treasury) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office)

J. S. WALL

Christopher Prentice, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT

ta cannot be moved Room bookra1600-1730. 1/2 noc. Barbara mill ask Mer major to abtord + PM doch in y avall pos, ar These are to ladies who woll for the party ar elections ele. Barbara fords par should try K accommodate Hera, but otto there can be nedo

As you know we have been trying to find dates for the next formal Anglo-French summit. It is your turn to go there.

The only date which looks possible for both you and President Mitterrand is Monday 24 June. Most of your engagements that day are movable. You have your constituency Womens Committee Annual Tea Party in the House of Commons at 1600. Would you be ready for Sandra to find another date for that? You could be back in time for the Eureka reception you have agreed to host at 1800. I think it is important for you to see President Mitterrand before the European Council (28-29 June). The French are also keen to make something of the summit to mark the closeness of our relations. They are planning to hold it outside Paris (following the precedent set by Mrs. Thatcher at Waddesdon). The normal form would be for you to be accompanied by the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary. The French may propose slightly wider participation on this occasion.

You could fly out to France first thing on the Monday morning, have talks and lunch with the President and fly back at about 1600.

Can I go ahead and fix 24 June?

V. dothialt & mode (they've broked up by Coursel worths ahead!

(J. S. WALL)

26 March 1991

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SANDRA ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT President Mitterrand's office have been on to ask whether we could have the Anglo-French Summit on Monday 27 May. Is this a starter? C. D. POWELL 12 March 1991