

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 October 1991

Dear Richard,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND:
13 NOVEMBER

Pierre Morel (Elysee) telephoned this evening to say that President Mitterrand accepted the Prime Minister's invitation for talks and lunch on Wednesday 13 November. Although it was Cabinet day in France, he hoped that the President might be able to arrive by 12 noon London time. He did not say what time the President would leave, though I doubt if he would leave much before 1530. Morel did not say who would accompany the President and, since it was a poor line, I did not pursue the issue. Perhaps our Ambassador in Paris could ask Pierre Morel what they have in mind. There are a number of possible variants with which you are familiar:

- 1 + 1 talks and lunch;
- 1 + 1 talks with, e.g. Foreign, Finance and Defence Ministers, joining for lunch. I think the Prime Minister would be content to fit in with the President's preference.

Morel went on to talk about the letter which President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl will be issuing tomorrow, covering the Franco-German proposal. The line was breaking up but the gist of what he appeared to be saying was that the French and Germans were keen to present their proposals and ours in as positive a way as possible, looking forward to agreement at Maastricht.

Morel went on to suggest that I and other officials, on the same lines as before, should go over to Paris before the NATO Summit. I said I would identify a date and would be back in touch.

At the end of the conversation, Morel said that both we and they had had recent meetings with Gompert. There was caution on the French part as well as on ours about the latest Summit and we should discuss this.

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

Jan,

Stephen

J. S. WALL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Mon 2 + Wed 4 Dec
forward to French. p.a.
S 31/10



PRIME MINISTER

pa

Stephen

Sands

Watchful for opportunities
a date.

13 Nov 1100-1520

25 Dec

WG are hoping that
Euro dream will take
place on 20-21 Nov.

25-~~Nov~~ Nov work fall
back dates, but CEX
may have 19C that day,
so not really a shock.
Could, however offer Mitterand

Mon 25 Nov (y not
subin)

(Rome on 27 Nov)

19C/FA → Mon 2 Dec (Hinchth
PM 1545)
Wed 4 Dec S 25/10

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 October 1991

Dear Richard,

VISIT OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: 20 NOVEMBER 1991

Pierre Morel (Elysee) telephoned today to say that President Mitterrand could not come to London on 13 November but could manage 20 November. We agreed on the latter date.

Since the line was once again bad, we agreed that our Embassy would follow-up on the question of attendance. As far as I could hear, the President envisages having his Foreign and Finance Ministers with him. I asked about Defence Ministers but the reply got lost somewhere between Paris and Harare. Perhaps you could ask our Ambassador to pursue the point? I think the French would probably prefer to confine themselves to Foreign and Finance Ministers on the grounds that the main subject will be the two IGCs. That would be fine for the Prime Minister.

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

Jans;
Stephen

J. S. WALL

Richard Gozney, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

8 October 1991

Dear Christopher,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

I have told Pierre Morel (Elysée) that the Prime Minister would be able to offer President Mitterrand lunch and talks in London on Wednesday 13, Friday 15, or Wednesday 20 November. Morel said he would get back to me.

We have left the exact format of the talks open, but I recognise that 13 November would be impossible for the Foreign Secretary. Ideally, I think the Prime Minister would want to have an arrangement such as we had for the visit to Dunkirk, ie separate talks before lunch involving the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Defence with their opposite numbers, with everyone meeting up for lunch and a general discussion. But it is frankly so difficult to find any date that suits both the Prime Minister and the President that I think we have to fix a date first and then arrange the details accordingly.

Morel said to me that he was disappointed that it had not been possible to go ahead with the proposed meeting between Foreign and Defence Ministers on 7 October, and he hoped it would be possible to use the prospect of a meeting between the President and the Prime Minister as a lever to get those talks reinstated. He evidently had in mind separate talks in advance of the summit. He also suggested that I might go over there for discussions, and I imagine this would be on a similar basis to our earlier talks, but again this is dependent on first fixing a date for the meeting between the President and the Prime Minister.

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

Jane
Phippard

J S WALL

C N R Prentice Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office