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he vs
be sure p.c.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 June 1984

Franco-British Council

You wrote to John Coles on 8 June about the Franco-British Council's invitation to the Prime Minister to address their Conference at Avignon on 30 November and make a speech.

The Prime Minister proposes to accept the invitation, on the understanding that the French Prime Minister will also attend. I shall be informing Sir Philip de Zulueta of this.

It is likely that the Prime Minister will wish to speak on a subject other than Franco-British relations. I shall let you know her choice of subject nearer the time.

We shall need to consider transport arrangements and whether the Prime Minister should accept the Prefet's offer of hospitality.

C.D. POWELL

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Je vsc
bc Sir P.C.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 June 1984

You wrote to my predecessor, John Coles, on 14 May concerning the Prime Minister's attendance at the meeting of the Franco-British Council in Avignon on Friday 30 November.

The Prime Minister would in principle be happy to accept an invitation to attend the Council on that date, on the understanding that the French Prime Minister would also attend. She also agrees to deliver a speech at dinner that evening.

It has not yet been possible to discuss the transport and accommodation arrangements. I am advised that the military airport at Orange is likely to be the most suitable for the Prime Minister's aircraft. I think it highly likely that she will wish to spend the night in Avignon, returning to the UK the following morning. But perhaps I could be in touch with you about the details rather nearer the time.

C.D. POWELL

Sir Philip de Zulueta

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 June, 1984

Prime Minister
Agree? It follows
right on from
Anglo-French Summit.
C.D. 15/6.

John Lee,

Yes

Franco-British Council

In your letter of 16 May you asked for advice on whether the Prime Minister should attend the Franco-British Council's Conference at Avignon on 30 November and make a speech.

We recommend that the Prime Minister should accept the Council's invitation. These conferences, held every two years, gather together eminent French and British people from a variety of fields including politics, business, journalism and the academic world. The Prime Minister attended the last two conferences at Bordeaux in 1980 and Edinburgh in 1982. The dinner on the opening night of the conference would provide a good opportunity for her to make a substantial speech on Franco-British relations or on another subject of her choice. Attendance on the Friday evening would seem to be the most convenient. We suggest, however, that it should be made clear that the Prime Minister's agreement to attend is made on the understanding that the French Prime Minister will attend also, as in 1982 and 1980.

You asked for advice on the questions about transport in the third paragraph of Sir Phillip's letter. We have yet to receive final confirmation from the French that the Summit will take place in Paris, and that it will end after lunch on the Friday. But assuming that it does it would probably be best for the Prime Minister to fly down to Avignon on the Friday afternoon. According to our Embassy in Paris, the most convenient airfield to use would be the military one at Orange, some 30 kilometres north of Avignon. Avignon airport itself is extremely small and would probably not be suitable for an Andover. Marseilles, as Sir Philip points out, is considerably further away.

If the Prime Minister accepts the invitation, you will also wish to consider whether the Prime Minister should accept the offer of hospitality by the local Prefect. It would have the advantage of avoiding a journey late at night at a time of year when the weather can be very unreliable.

The Foreign Secretary has, as indicated in Sir Philip's letter, received a separate letter inviting him to address the conference on the Saturday evening. He proposes to send a holding reply. It is likely that Sir Geoffrey Howe will ask another Foreign Office Minister to attend in his place, but this will depend to some extent on whether M. Cheysson (or M. Dumas) attends. He would of course be available to

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/accompany

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accompany the Prime Minister to Avignon for the Friday evening if she wished.

Two

R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

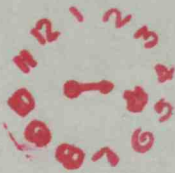
A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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France 6 183

00 JUN 1984

France / Br. Council





FILE da

cc Caroline
PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 May 1984

Franco-British Council

BC
I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received from Sir Philip de Zulueta. You will see that the organisers now envisage that the Franco-British Council will meet in Avignon from Friday 30 November to Sunday 2 December. I should be grateful for your advice on the suggestion that the Prime Minister should attend the proceedings on the evening of Friday 30 November and make a speech. I should also be grateful for advice on the questions about transport in Sir Philip's third paragraph.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ccp4

Franco-British Council

BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

A.J. Coles, Esq.,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

14th May, 1984.

Dear John,

Now that, as you kindly told me, the Franco British Summit dates in the autumn have been agreed, Senateur Pontillon was able to confirm to me over the weekend that the next main meeting of the Franco British Council will take place in Avignon from Friday November 30 to Sunday December 2.

As we have discussed, the Council, of course, very much hope that the Prime Minister and M. Mauroy will be able, as on previous occasions, to come to the Conference. Our suggestion would be that the Prime Minister should come down from Paris to Avignon in the afternoon of Friday November 30, since I believe that I am right in saying that the Summit meetings normally finish after lunch. If this would suit the Prime Minister the Council would suggest the two Prime Ministers might perhaps come to the Palais des Papes in Avignon (where the dinner and meeting will take place) at 7.45 p.m. so as to allow participants a chance to be presented before dinner at 8.30 p.m. The Council would hope that the Prime Minister would be prepared to make a speech during the dinner. Of course if the Prime Minister would prefer to come to the Conference at some later time, for example on the Saturday, the Council could easily rearrange the programme but I believe that the Friday night would seem the most sensible on the basis that the Prime Minister could then return to the U.K. for the weekend if she so wished.

I should be most grateful if you could ascertain the Prime Minister's wishes in this matter. I would also be very grateful to know whether you would expect her to fly down to Avignon (which implies not using a large aircraft) or whether she would be more likely to fly to Marseilles which allows a larger aircraft to land but is, of course, much further. Monsieur Pontillon has also asked me if the Prime Minister would be likely to wish to stay the night of Friday November 30 or whether she would return to the U.K. after dinner. We would, of course, be delighted if the former was the case and I understand the Prefect would be likely to offer hospitality.

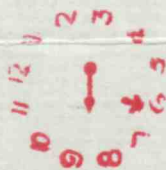
I should perhaps add that I am also going to ask whether the Foreign Secretary would be prepared to address the Conference at the dinner on Saturday evening but this, of course, would be a different operation although I suppose that the Foreign Secretary will be accompanying the Prime Minister to the Summit and so might come down from Paris with her.

*Yours ever,
Philip de Z.*

France June 83

Franco - British Council
Conference in 1984

16 MAY 1984





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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 February 1984

Thank you so much for your letter of 1 February. James Hadley's note about his dinner in Lille was most interesting and you must be very pleased by M. Mauroy's remarks about the Franco-British Council.

We are still waiting to hear from the French Government about the dates of the Anglo-French Summit. They are aware of our own wishes but as they are hosts we cannot press them too much.

A. J. COLES

Sir Philip de Zulueta

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Franco-British Council BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

Sir Philip de Zulueta
Chairman

Please reply to: 6 John Street,
London, WC1N 2ES
Telephone: 01-242 9921

CONFIDENTIAL

1st February, 1984.

A.J. Coles, Esq.,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear John,

** I attach a note written by James Hadley about a dinner given last week in Lille which I thought might interest you. In particular the remarks by M. Mauroy about Franco British relations are perhaps worth noting although I am not sure what practical effect they have!

*Yours ever,
Philip*

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31 JAN 1984

To : Sir Philip de Zulueta

30th January, 1984

From : James Hadley

I went to Lille for the reception and dinner given by Pierre Mauroy to celebrate the exhibition of the BBC French Service's history over the years. A most enchanting time.

The exhibition, in the main and very spacious hall of this fabulous 'art deco' town hall, was very well conceived and constructed. Plenty of video and slide shows - a mock-up of a studio c18th June 1940 - and a cinema.

When I got there, I was immediately 'press-ganged' into a joint radio interview with Pontillon, which went down very well - I think we complemented each other well.

Then Fretwell arrived and we had a few words about sundry matters. The Consul-General, Malcolm Dougal (who was a few years ago in the Commercial Section of the Embassy) was introduced. He is a lively and enthusiastic, and the important Lillois seem to like him.

Mauroy eventually arrived and inspected the exhibition. He was late, but that did not inhibit his enthusiasm, it just destroyed the time-table! Eventually, we went upstairs for a press conference etc. Mauroy was overwhelming in his praise and description of the Franco-British Council - of the representatives there present, ie. Pontillon, the Director from England and his Council colleague Paul Hodgson. Both Paul and I were almost embarrassed at the warmth of his remarks - some of which, were 'off the cuff'. The BBC got, of course, its fair share, and then Mauroy came back to the theme of the absolute necessity of good and developing Franco-British relations. About this time, Michele Cotta arrived to join in the nice words, etc, about the BBC (more of her later). Douglas Muggeridge made a very short speech in the most atrocious, but actually understandable, French (much appreciated) and presented Mauroy with a gold-plated replica of a 1940 microphone, such as were used by de Gaulle. Pontillon then made a first-rate reply on behalf of the Council.

We then had a drink and a few of us went to Mauroy's office to look at some pictures. He was completely relaxed.

Off to the restaurant. I was surprised, but immensely gratified, to find myself sitting on Mauroy's left, with Michele Cotta on his right, and Paul H on her right. Opposite us Pontillon had John Fretwell on his left, but opposite Mauroy. First-rate dinner; plenty of conversation. Mauroy told me that he was very pleased that the region chosen by the Council for its next seminar was the 'Pas de Calais' and the 'Nord' - a singular coincidence!

.../...

Sir Philip de Zulueta
30th January, 1984

It turned out that Michele Cotta has her problems, and needed Mauroy's support! He obviously likes her a lot, as do the BBC team, and this is obviously very helpful. Cotta, however, still cannot really understand the role of the IBA (George Thomson must watch out!)

Lots of informal "across the table" talk at dinner. A most successful occasion.

The following, however, are worth noting:

1. The whole dinner, reception etc was given by Mauroy and the City of Lille
2. The BBC exhibition was in the town hall itself, and thus gained prestige
3. The exhibition has another two weeks to go, and expects to attract, "inter alia" a large number of school children.
4. P. Hodgson, who has really been the 'animateur' had to explain to the nice Consul-General that it was the Franco-British Council, not the BBC, that got Mauroy to do this, and not the Embassy - this fact could, I suppose, just cause a little jealousy.
5. Fretwell was pleased to be present, and thanked Mauroy for dinner on behalf of the guests.
6. ~ BBC have worked very hard, and if you could congratulate Douglas Muggeridge (card enclosed) and his colleagues, Andrew Mango, Francois Turmel and Peter Fraenkel, this could be helpful.
7. I will, of course, thank both Mauroy and Pontillon, but a note from you as Chairman to Mauroy might be useful. He can be addressed as Monsieur le Premier Ministre et Maire, L'Hotel de Ville, Lille.
8. Finally, Paul deserves a cheery word for all his work on this. It could never have happened without the Council.

On the Saturday morning, I visited the relatively new store of Marks & Spencer. A most useful and illuminating visit. I am writing to Brian Howard.

E. R.

~~Please attend to.~~

& that we have done ✓.

A.S.C. - 21

MR COLES

AG
K-a...

Sir Philip de Zulueta telephoned this morning about the possibility of the Prime Minister attending a meeting of the Franco-British Council following the Anglo-French bilaterals at the end of November. He said that he had discussed dates informally with his French opposite number who understood from the Elysee that there were no insuperable obstacles to the bilaterals taking place on 30 November.

B/C
X | I undertook to pass this message on to you. He would be most grateful if you could give him a ring next Wednesday, when he returns from Belgium, about what should happen next. I think he is hoping that we will now be prepared to propose formally to the French Government that the bilaterals should take place at the end of November.

Dmb

filed 29 Jan - 30
F/S 1 Dec

27 January 1984

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 June 1983

FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE IN 1984

Thank you for your letter of 27 June.

The Prime Minister agrees in principle that another Franco-British Council Conference should be held. She also considers that everything possible should be done to keep the cost to the taxpayer down (she has noted that it may approach £70,000).

I am copying this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury).

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NR

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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Agree in principle that another

London SW1A 2AH

Franco-British Council Conference should
be held *Yes*

27 June 1983

- and that everything possible should be
done to keep the cost to the taxpayer
down (it may approach £70,000). ? *Yes mh*

Jaw Tshu,

A.S.C. 2/6.

Franco-British Council Conference in 1984

You may remember that the Prime Minister attended and spoke at the two Conferences so far organised by the Council, in Bordeaux (September 1980) and Edinburgh (May 1982). The Council are planning to hold their next Conference in the autumn of 1984 in Toulouse or Marseilles, to coincide with the Anglo/French Summit, also due in France next year. While it is far too early for the Prime Minister to give any commitment about her participation in the conference, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary wishes to seek her agreement that it should be held before the FCO endorses the Council's plans any further.

It is important for the Council to have this endorsement not only because they require HMG's full backing in organising it, but also because the bulk of the finance for the Conference comes out of an FCO grant-in-aid.

I hope the Prime Minister will agree that these Conferences serve a useful purpose in furthering the specific work of the Council, set up after The Queen's State Visit to France in 1972; in reminding senior personalities on both sides of the Channel, whatever their field of activity, of the importance of France and the UK to each other; and in publicly underlining the commitment of both countries to work for a closer Franco-British relationship. Next year is the 80th anniversary of the Entente Cordiale, and autumn 1984 would be two and a half years after the last Conference.

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The Prime Minister will remember the generous style of the Conferences both at Edinburgh and at Bordeaux. There is a feeling both within the FCO and the Quai d'Orsay that some of this might be sacrificed without loss in the interests of economy and of ensuring a more workmanlike atmosphere. However, I fear that some dazzle will remain necessary to attract the participants we would like.

We have yet to work out the financial aspects of the Conference but it would be very useful to know that the Prime Minister is behind us as we do so. The cost to the taxpayer is not yet certain, but may approach £70,000: we shall of course do whatever we can to hold the cost to the lowest possible level.

Sir Philip de Zulueta, Chairman of the British Section of the Council, may also write direct to the Prime Minister on this subject at some stage.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Kerr at the Treasury.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R B Bone'.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Number 10 Downing Street

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