

PRIME MINISTER

At the end of our talks in Bonn today, both Herr Teltschik and M. Attali said that they thought it would be useful to continue our meetings. They were an invaluable way of ensuring that the personal views and priorities of Heads of Government on major international issues were well understood and, where possible, reconciled. They proposed that there should be a further meeting to prepare for the forthcoming European Council.

I said that you had agreed to this particular series of meetings to deal with a specific problem on arms control. I would need to check whether you were willing to see them continue on other issues and become a regular feature. There were, of course, particular sensitivities vis-a-vis other member states in meeting to discuss EC issues in this circle, and it would be even more important to preserve confidentiality.

You may like to discuss this with the Foreign Secretary after the Election. I think that the meetings are useful as a way of bringing Europe's three leading powers to make a habit of working together. But they do need very careful handling to ensure that they do not cut across or pre-empt work properly and better done by other people in other meetings. They should remain occasional rather than regular, and related to specific issues or occasions where the direct involvement of Heads of Government is a particular feature.

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