

ORIGINAL ON

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FRANCE: VISITS OF PRES

MITTERRAND P76

PRIME MINISTER

BILATERALS WITH THE FRENCH AND GERMANS

As you will have noticed, we have managed to stretch the intervals between these full-scale bilateral summits to very nearly one year. But there comes a point when we can postpone them no longer, and we are currently planning to hold them on consecutive Fridays at the very end of January/early February in London.

The Foreign Office have suggested that it might be administratively a good deal easier to hold them in Lancaster House. This would enable all the bilaterals between individual Ministers to be conducted in different corners of the same building, before all the Ministers come together for the plenary and the lunch. It might also help to get the meetings over more quickly, which I am sure you would endorse!

May we plan on the basis of using Lancaster House on this occasion please?

Yes

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

13 November 1987

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 September 1987

(Top copy on FRANCE
visits by the President:
Pt 6)

Dear Charles,

Anglo-French and Anglo-German Summits

Following their postponement this autumn, the next formal summits with France and Germany are due to take place at the beginning of 1988. Since both are to be held in London, it is for us to propose dates, and since diaries fill up rapidly, the sooner we can do this, the better.

Fri 22 Jan

or
Mon 25 Jan

As you know, the French Presidential elections are expected to take place in May. It will be important to hold the summit in good time before the official campaigning gets under way. This suggests an early date, ideally before the end of January, which would still be 14 months after the last full summit.

Mon 22 Feb

No similar factors affect the timing of the next Anglo-German summit: the only Land election scheduled for 1988 (Baden Wuerttemberg) will take place in March. But the last full summit took place in September 1986 and the Germans will attach importance to an early date in 1988. (There is already some disappointment in Bonn that the pattern of two Anglo-German summits a year has slipped to annual meetings, even if supplemented by a number of bilaterals between the Prime Minister and Chancellor Kohl. Inevitably, the Germans compare this unfavourably with the regular six monthly Franco-German summits with frequent meetings in between).

Whether EC subjects appear high on the agenda of both summits will depend on the outcome of Copenhagen. But it would in any case be useful to meet the Germans early on in their Presidency in order to influence their handling of Community business.

I should be grateful if you would let me know which dates are available, so that we can instruct Paris and Bonn to put them to the French and Germans. For the sake of completeness, I should add that an Anglo-Italian summit will also need to be fitted into the first few months of 1988. But, since this will take place in Italy, it is for the Italians to propose dates.

Yours ever,

L. Parker
(L. Parker)

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Private Secretary

RESTRICTED



PMH:AH

cc PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 September 1987

*Copied to France:
Visit by President: P.E.L.*

ANGLO-FRENCH AND ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMITS

Thank you for your letter of 28 September about dates for the Anglo-French and Anglo-German summits. We could offer Friday 22 January or Monday 25 January for the Anglo-French summit; and Monday 22 February for the Anglo-German summit. I should be grateful if you could propose these dates.

C. D. Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CJC



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-270 3000

7 July 1987

Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

CDD
7/7.*Dear Charles***ANGLO/GERMAN SUMMIT**

Thank you for copying your letter of 6 July to Alex Allan.

As I think you already know, 28 September would not be possible for the Chancellor, as he will be at the IMF in Washington at that time (and so too will be Dr Stoltenberg, the German Finance Minister). In any case, in recent years it has been unusual for Finance Ministers to take part in these summits: I wonder whether the Chancellor's attendance is really necessary?

I am copying this letter to Lyn Parker (FCO), John Howe (MOD), Timothy Walker (DTI) and Philip Mawer (Home Office).

*Yours ever,
Tony*

A W KUCZYS
Private Secretary