

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR KOHL

Rather as expected, Chancellor Kohl's office have been in touch to say that he must with regret postpone the Anglo-German summit planned for 5 February on the grounds that it simply is not practicable to go through with it so soon before the extra European Council to be held in Brussels on 11/12 February.

This is understandable. Equally, it will be a pity if you and Chancellor Kohl are unable to meet at all before the European Council.

I suggest that we should say to his office that you entirely understand the reasons for postponing the regular Anglo-German summit. Nonetheless you would very much value an opportunity to talk to him before the February European Council. He would be very welcome to come over for half a day any time between mid-January and the first week of February. If a weekend was more convenient, you could meet at Chequers. If that proves impossible for him, you would yourself be ready to fly to Bonn for half a day. I would not offer this second alternative unless we ran into resistance to the idea of his coming here.

Agree to proceed in this way?

Yes

CDP

(C. D. POWELL)

9 December 1987

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bc: PC

PAC/TS

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 December 1987

ANGLO-GERMAN CONTACTS

The Prime Minister accepts that it was unrealistic to expect the Germans to maintain the Anglo-German Summit so shortly before the additional European Council in February. She has asked me to say to the Chancellor's office that she entirely understands the reasons for postponing the regular summit. Nonetheless, she would very much value an opportunity to talk to the Chancellor ahead of the European Council in February. He would be very welcome to come over for half a day any time between mid-January and the first week of February. If a weekend were more convenient, she would be happy to welcome him to Chequers. If absolutely necessary, the Prime Minister would be ready to fly to Bonn to see the Chancellor but I do not propose to volunteer that at this stage.

C D POWELL

RTS

Lyn Parker, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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R. Lavelle.



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JRW

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LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

8 December 1987

ANGLO/GERMAN SUMMIT

Dr. Neuer from Chancellor Kohl's office telephoned me this afternoon to say that the Chancellor felt that it would be better to postpone the formal Anglo/German Summit due to take place in early February until after the Brussels European Council. It simply would not be feasible to conduct full scale consultations so shortly before that Council.

I said that I was sure that the Prime Minister would quite understand this. On the other hand, it would be a pity if there were no opportunity for the Prime Minister and the Chancellor to meet between now and the February Council. Dr. Neuer saw the force of this and it was left that we would try to find a date early in the New Year when the Prime Minister and the Chancellor could meet. It was left open whether the meeting would be in London or Bonn.

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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DER BOTSCHAFTER
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND
Baron Rüdiger von Wechmar

cc PC
London, 11 December 1987

C.C. FCO
CDD
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Dear Charles,

I refer to our telephone conversation yesterday and would like to confirm that the German-British consultations of Heads of Government which were scheduled for February 5, 1988 will be postponed because of the European Council on February 11 and 12, 1988.

Please convey to the Prime Minister the sincerest regrets of the Federal Chancellor. Chancellor Kohl deplores that the busy political timetable of the past months has prevented the resumption of the normal rhythm of bilateral talks of the Heads of Government of our two countries. The Federal Chancellor will suggest a new date after the European Council. I do hope that a date not too far away will be convenient for both sides.

Yours sincerely

Romy

Mr. Charles Powell
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
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London SW 1