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PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT

You have minuted that you would prefer not to have an Anglo-German Summit in October.

I think that further deferral of a Summit could cause us quite serious problems.

There is no doubt that these Summits are rather ponderous and contrived occasions. Only a limited amount of real business gets done. You can and do see Chancellor Kohl quite frequently outside the framework of formal Summit meetings and your colleagues similarly meet their opposite numbers.

The trouble is that these Summits have very considerable symbolic importance in Europe. The French and Germans hold them six times a year. Our practice was to hold them once every six months. In practice this has slipped to about once a year. The last full-scale Anglo-German Summit was in September 1986. If we defer a further one until October the gap will be almost two years. There is a risk of giving credence to press reports that you and Chancellor Kohl are at loggerheads. You will have noticed Julian Bullard's valedictory despatch with its concluding message: Take trouble with Germany: Be punctilious over Anglo-German meetings from Summits downwards. It is a serious point.

We could decide to abandon these Summits altogether and rely only on informal meetings. There is much to be said for this, but it would need very careful handling. We would say to the French, Germans (and Italians) that we found the present structure of Summits unnecessarily cumbersome. Particularly with the frequency of meetings at Head of Government level in the European Community and the Economic Summit framework, and closer working relations at every level within Europe we no longer felt the need for the symbolism of Summits.

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But we could not just leave it at that. We would have to propose something to put in the place of Summits, to avoid the press saying that we were downgrading relations and leaving Europe to a Franco-German directorate. To an extent this could be a commitment to regular informal meetings and consultations at Head of Government level. But that would not be enough on its own. We need some further novelty. For instance could we set up Joint Secretariats with the French and Germans respectively to coordinate Ministerial contacts and ensure a regular flow of meetings, as well as handle some of the substance of our regular bilateral relations?

It's just an idea and perhaps not a very good one. But we shall need something if we are going to abandon Summits.

This is something which you may like me to pursue with the FCO (and may yourself wish to discuss with the Foreign Secretary). But in the meantime, I think we must try to fix a date for an Anglo-German Summit (which will be in the United Kingdom) at some point in the next six months (perhaps July or September)?

Agree to fix a date (forward diary attached)?

Yes, Cut the

Agree to pursue ideas on alternatives to Summits?

regional town
on Friday

21st October and
substitute Anglo-German
Summit.

C.D.P.

(C. D. POWELL)

27 March 1988

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ATTEND ROYAL GARDEN PARTY + DT BUCKINGHAM PALACE
1830-2000 Reception for MPs and wives

Friday 29 July

Keep free for briefing
1245 for 1300 LUNCH WITH BRITISH SOCIETY OF MAGAZINE EDITORS
MERIDIAN HOTEL, PICCADILLY
Keep free for packing

Sunday 31 July - Sunday 7 August
? OVERSEAS

Wednesday 7 September

Keep free for speech

Thursday 8 September

ADDRESS SCOTTISH CBI, GLASGOW

Friday 9 September to Sunday 11 September
SCOTLAND

Tuesday, 13 September
evening ?KEEP FREE

Wednesday 14 September
1300 LUNCH AT SOTHEBYS

Thursday 15 September
1830 ?LOOK IN AT HENRY MOORE EXHIBITION ROYAL ACADEMY

Friday, 16 September
pm FINCHLEY

Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 September
OVERSEAS?

Monday 26 September
1430-1600 First meeting for Party Conference Speech

Tuesday, 27 September
AUDIENCE?
ATTEND ROYAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER: FISHMONGERS HALL

Wednesday, 28 September
REGIONAL TOUR

Thursday 29 September
1300 PRESENT "WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS" AWARD: DORCHESTER HOTEL

Friday 30 September
? DEPART NO.10
1045 ARRIVE BRIZE NORTON
VISIT RAF BRIZE NORTON ?

13

530c

TO CHEQUERS

Monday 3 October

Dinner for Covent Garden Opera

Tuesday, 4 October

AUDIENCE

Wednesday 5 October

0900-1030 Keep free for speech writing

Thursday 6 October1800-1930 LOOK IN AT RECEPTION FOR RUC DEPENDANTS
CITY LIVERY HALLSaturday 8 October/Sunday 9 October

Keep free for speech writing

Tuesday 11 - Friday 14 October

PARTY CONFERENCE

Tuesday, 18 October

AUDIENCE

Thursday 20 October

1945 for 2000 Dinner for the Kennedy Memorial Trust No.10

Friday 21 OctoberREGIONAL TOUR
TO CHEQUERS*Angela Gerner Summit*Tuesday, 25 October

AUDIENCE

Thursday, 27 OctoberGUEST OF HONOUR AT A DINNER ORGANISED BY HEBREW
UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM - LONDONFriday, 28 October

FINCHLEY LADIES LUNCH

Monday 31 October

1500-1600 First meeting for Lord Mayor's Banquet Speech

1830-2000 General Reception

Tuesday, 1 November

AUDIENCE?

1830-2000 Reception for Wightman Cup

No.10

Thursday 3 November

2000 Dinner for CTS sponsors

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SRWBIR

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO/GERMAN SUMMIT

You will remember that we had to cancel the Anglo/German Summit planned for early February.

We need to find a date when it can be re-instated later in the year. The Germans attach great importance to these Summits. If we have a date, the position is held.

We cannot really find any suitable date before the summer break (although you may need to see Kohl briefly before the Hanover European Council). We have identified 3 October as a possibility. I attach the relevant sheets from your long-term diary. You would be back in time for the dinner for Covent Garden.

Agree that we can propose 3 October?

CD?

October is already full up
I am reluctant
to overwork it. I shall see him in
Toronto.

(C. D. POWELL)

24 March 1988

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10 DOWNING STREET

Peru comes in diary for
Monday 24th October.

CDO has written to LP
about this

awaiting German
reply.

18/7

For putting 21 Oct
to Germans as
of 12/4



10 DOWNING STREET

Person
✓ on please -
then we must
put to PM
end

Charles

Do you want me to
take dates direct with
the Foreign Office?

I was going to
suggest 5. Sept. (Monday)
or 3rd Oct (Monday)
or 24 Oct (")

14.
21/3

OR Friday 21st October.

Wyn Barker checking -

21/3

awaiting
balance
approval.
11/4/86

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 March 1988

TG/PAB

Ed. we discuss dates
pure. on.

Dear Charles,

Anglo-German Summit

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had a brief discussion of the next Anglo-German Summit at their meeting yesterday. I am writing to confirm that the Foreign Secretary recommends that we should now endeavour to fix a date for a Summit in the autumn, preferably in September or October. I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister agrees.

Yours ever,

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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cpc

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From the Private Secretary

5 February 1988

ANGLO/GERMAN SUMMIT

Thank you for your letter of 27 January about the dates for the Anglo/German Summit.

I did not in the event have an opportunity to discuss this with the Federal Chancellery and would prefer now to wait until after the European Council. The urgency of an Anglo/German Summit and German willingness to have one during the remainder of their Presidency will depend in good part on the outcome of next week's meeting. There is also the consideration that the Prime Minister's diary already has far too many foreign affairs engagements in the next few months, and there will be great reluctance to add another.

Let us consider this again towards the end of this month.

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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