

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT

1. Since your briefing meeting to discuss the Anglo-French Summit on 18 November I have given thought to what conclusions from the meeting you might aim to present publicly. It seems to me important that there should be a clear message to deliver at the press conference which follows the plenary session. The following seem to me the five key points it is worth aiming to put across (I am not of course wedded to the precise drafting).

(a) East/West Relations

It has been valuable on the day before the US/Soviet Summit for the two European nuclear powers and permanent Security Council members to have met and taken stock. We stand with the Americans and hope the Russians will participate in a constructive spirit. We hope the Summit will give impetus to arms control negotiations and look for a positive Soviet response to the latest US proposals.

(b) European Community

We have noted considerable convergence in our views on the substance of subjects under discussion at the Inter-Governmental Conference. What we want to get agreed is progress on decision taking, the internal market and the strengthening of political cooperation on the lines we have proposed. It is high time to get the Community moving forward (I have looked again at this formulation in the light of our talk in the plane back from Belfast - and think it strikes about the right balance between the constructive and the delphic).

(c) Eureka

We welcome the successful outcome of the Ministerial meeting at Hanover, following up this important French initiative. We are playing a full part and look forward to working closely with France in preparation for the next Ministerial meeting, which we shall chair. We agree on the need for Europe to strengthen its competitiveness in the field of advanced technology.

/(d) Channel Fixed Link

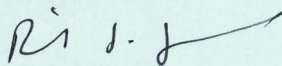
(d) Channel Fixed Link

This was the most important bilateral issue we discussed today. Our collaboration is close and we are in agreement on how next to proceed towards a decision. It is too early to comment on the merits of the separate proposals. But I should like to draw attention to the joint statement we have made. This project offers an exciting opportunity for a permanent and tangible link between the British Isles and the rest of Europe.

(e) Defence

We welcome the progress that has been made extending still further our contacts in the defence field. As an example, this year has seen the renewal after sixteen years of visits by Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarines to French ports. We are in full agreement on the importance of cooperation in the planning and production of armaments and on the need to look for further opportunities for this.

2. We both of course appreciate the importance of dealing with press questions about French and British responses to the Soviet disarmament proposals in a way that gives the media no opportunity to drive wedges between us. I attach a short note of points that could form the basis of your answers to the inevitable probing. This is a point which you will obviously want to mention to Mitterrand before the press conference.



Approved by the Secretary of State
and signed in his absence

16 November 1985

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT: 18 NOVEMBER

For
supplementaries

Arms Control Issues: Points for Press Conference

1. Importance of Camp David four points

- (i) US/Western aim not to achieve superiority but to maintain balance
- (ii) SDI-related deployment would have to be matter for negotiation
- (iii) Overall aim to enhance, not undermine, deterrence
- (iv) East/West negotiations should aim to achieve security with reduced levels of offensive systems on both sides.

2. No question of negotiations involving British and French deterrents until well-known and frequently-stated conditions have been met. UK and France firmly in step - in both cases, nuclear forces are minimum size necessary for deterrent purposes.

3. United Western position important factor in evolution of Soviet position. Both agreed on continuing need to maintain this unity. Western allies fully support US efforts to secure deep cuts in offensive weapons.

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ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT: 18 NOVEMBER

STATEMENT ON CHANNEL FIXED LINK

The French and British Governments reaffirmed their willingness to set in hand a Channel Fixed Link between their two countries. They considered it to be an imaginative project which should bring great benefit to the trade links and economies of both countries.

The agreed deadlines have been and will be respected.

- April 1985: issue of the invitation to promoters for financing, constructing and operating a fixed link;
- 31 October 1985: deposit of promoters' proposals;
- December 1985: presentation to the two Governments of a joint report assessing the various proposals;
- the decision to be taken by the two Governments will be announced before the end of January 1986.

The decision to be taken by the two countries will take into account the need of the two Governments to be satisfied on such essential matters as safety and protection of health and the environment.

The Treaty, which will set out the legal and economic regime of the project and the undertakings of the states, will be signed the following month.

The two Governments have stated their willingness to take complementary measures in parallel with the construction of the project to facilitate frontier crossing and to improve traffic conditions on either side of the fixed link.

Customs and immigration controls will be co-located so as to reduce delays for travellers and traffic. In the case of a rail link, appropriate methods for controls in relation to through trains will be devised with the same objective.

Regulatory, economic and technical obstacles to lorry and coach traffic will be abolished progressively and in any case by the entry into operation of the fixed link.

Plans for improvements to the road networks giving access to the fixed link will be established and set in hand in parallel to the construction of the link.

The two governments will encourage the railway administrations of the two countries to take the maximum advantage, consistent with their commercial interests, of any rail element in the fixed link, in the framework of the development of the European network.