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This is CF (visit to Paris) Not GR



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

cc PC
ES

12 November 1986

Prime Minister
The only point for
you is to approve
the proposed participation
in the Anglo-French Summit at X.

Dear Charles, John Moore does not want to go. He has just seen his French colleague; e has important political engagements here. Agree, less John Moore?

Thank you for your letter of 6 November. We have since had a word on the telephone about Sir John Fretwell's telegram 1135 (copy enclosed). I also enclose a draft telegraphic reply to Paris.

I hope that the Prime Minister can agree to the programme now proposed by the French, despite the extra travelling it will entail for her. It would be unfortunate to appear to exclude Chirac from the Summit proper. A preliminary meeting with him would have the advantage that the Prime Minister could inform him of Their Royal Highnesses' The Prince and Princess of Wales' agreement to visit France in 1988 (in response to an invitation formally issued by Chirac to the Prime Minister) before she announces it at the Press Conference. Sir Geoffrey Howe accepts that in these circumstances the traditional session a quatre with Foreign Ministers, the Prime Minister and Mitterrand would have to fall away.

X | The British Ministers to match the French list would be: Sir Geoffrey Howe (Raimond), Mr Younger (Giraud), Mr Jopling (Guillaume), Mr Channon (for Madelin and Noir), Mr Walker (for Madelin), Mr Moore (Douffiagues) and Mrs Chalker (Bosson). The earlier suggestion that Interior Ministers should attend has been dropped. Sir Geoffrey Howe thinks it would be appropriate for these Ministers to accept, with the exception of Mrs Chalker. She has already had two bilateral meetings with Bosson in the last fortnight. European issues will be discussed at both Prime Minister and Foreign Minister level, and will concentrate on the European Council, which neither Bosson nor Mrs Chalker will attend. It would however be worth trying to meet Bosson's enthusiasm for participation: hence the proposal for a meeting with Mr Channon.

I understand that Mr Moore also has reservations about the value of attending. At our suggestion, he will first discuss this with Douffiagues at the Transport Council on 10/11 November. The Foreign Secretary believes that it would be useful for him to attend the bilateral summit. Not only

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do Transport Ministers have much to discuss - CFL, Airbus, aviation deregulation (which Mr Moore had already suggested should be discussed at the Summit), their participation would also have presentational value, as evidence of the two governments' continued support for CFL. It would in any event be essential for any decision for Transport Ministers not to participate to be taken jointly.

I have written separately over travel arrangements. Meanwhile I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of Ministers who are (and have been) involved in this summit, and to Sir Robert Armstrong's Private Secretary.

Yours ever,

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