

cc Stuttgart file

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING ON WILLIAMSBURG & STUTTGART

This minute lists the issues for decision at your meeting on Tuesday, together with supporting facts.

- 1. Will you attend Williamsburg?

I think you intend to do so.

- 2. For how long and by what transport?

I attach the Summit Programme (Flag A).

Outward Journey

The Americans have suggested (though the idea has not yet been put to President Reagan) that each meal should be devoted to discussion of a particular topic and that you should lead a discussion of arms control/INF at dinner on Saturday evening. You may feel the best plan is to attend all the Saturday events, including the official arrival ceremonies. That would mean arriving in Williamsburg at 3.30 p.m. US time.

You could do this:-

- (a) either by commercial Concorde leaving Heathrow at 1330 London time, arriving Washington at 1220 US time, and reaching Williamsburg an hour or so later.
- (b) or by VC10, leaving Heathrow at 12 noon London time and flying direct to Langley Air Force Base and on by helicopter to Williamsburg, arriving at 3.30 US time (we shall have to check that this suits the Americans).

The VC10 journey would be 4 hours longer but has certain advantages - the freedom of your own aircraft, no extra cost, no possibility of criticism and you could have your briefing meeting

on the plane with the whole team (we could then dispense with the usual briefing meeting at No.10 and save campaigning time).

You have no campaign commitments on the Saturday.

Return Journey

The options depend on how long you want to stay at Williamsburg. But the priority should perhaps be to get you back to No. 10 in good time on the night of Monday, 30 May for an up-date on the election campaign and a decent night's rest.

There is no commercial Concorde from Washington on that day.

The options I see are:-

- (a) Leave Williamsburg at about 11.30 a.m. US time, fly to New York by US Government aircraft (which they have offered), leave New York by commercial Concorde at 1345 and arrive Heathrow at 2225 London time.
- (b) Cut Monday's proceedings entirely and fly back overnight on Sunday by VC10. This would cut down jet lag and give you maximum resting time before Tuesday - but it would be expensive because the remainder of the party would have to fly back commercial on Monday.
- (c) Hold a meeting at 8.00 a.m. on Monday in Williamsburg, leave instructions on the overnight draft conclusions, depart at 9.00 a.m. and take the VC10 to arrive back at Heathrow at about 2230 on Monday night.

/ (d)

- (d) Stay until mid-afternoon on Monday, attend President Reagan's press conference when, flanked by other participants, he will read the agreed conclusions, and then leave - but you will then get back to No.10 in the middle of the night. (You will wish to bear in mind that the next day (31 May) you have a news conference, a Panorama recording and a rally in Edinburgh).

I suggest you go by VC10, and come back with minimal staff on the Concorde, leaving the rest of the party to return by VC10 after the Summit (the "extra" costs for Concorde to be borne by Conservative Central Office). There will be a host of details to be sorted out but I can settle these in the light of your decisions on the above.

3. Who will represent you in Williamsburg, if you decide to leave before the end?

Someone should be there to negotiate the final conclusions, attend President Reagan's press conference and attend the State Dinner on the Monday evening. All these events probably require a Minister. Either the Chancellor, or the Foreign Secretary, or both might be asked to stay behind. Sir Robert Armstrong will presumably also stay.

4. Do you agree that the Summit should issue a statement on INF?

The present US idea is that this should be issued on the Sunday.

There will of course be an "economic" statement on Monday (see Sir Robert Armstrong's minute at Flag B).

5. With whom should you have bilateral meetings at the Summit?

Mitterrand has offered an hour at 1730 on Sunday, which we should perhaps accept.

You will want to talk to Kohl but I doubt if we need arrange a formal bilateral.

On the other hand, I suggest that we do try to arrange a bilateral meeting with President Reagan. Most other participants are doing this and it will look odd if you do not.

I doubt if you will now have time for Nakasone but you could consider when we have arranged the others.

6. Press statement?

You told ITN today that you would take a clear decision on Tuesday. I suggest that we first let President Reagan know that you have decided to attend and that then Bernard puts out a statement saying:

"The Prime Minister will attend the Economic Summit at Williamsburg. She will be accompanied by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary".

He would not disclose details of travel plans (we have to have security in mind, especially if you are to use Concorde) and in answer to questions about Stuttgart would say:

"The question of attendance at Stuttgart is still being considered. A decision will be taken in due course".

STUTTGART

We await news from Chancellor Kohl as to whether our partners have agreed to postponement until 18/19 June. Meanwhile there is little point in discussing the question of attendance. We should be very careful not to leak Kohl's proposal.

You may like to invite the Foreign Secretary to give an account of Schloss Gymnich.

The meeting could then usefully discuss Mr. Williamson's minute at Flag C which seeks decisions on three points:-

- (a) handling of our Budget problem at the Foreign Affairs Council on 24 May;
- (b) action if the outcome of that Council is unsatisfactory;
- (c) the longer-term Budget problem.

A. J. COLES

16 May 1983