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10 DOWNING STREET

16 July 1985

From the Private Secretary

Dear Am.

MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF FRANCE

M. Fabius telephoned the Prime Minister this evening to say that President Mitterrand had suggested that it would be useful for him to discuss one or two matters connected with Europe with the Prime Minister. He therefore wondered whether he could come across to London to see the Prime Minister very informally in the next week or so. I should add that M. Fabius's Private Secretary had telephoned me earlier in the day to warn me that he would be making this approach.

The Prime Minister said that she would of course be pleased to see M. Fabius though she was already very heavily committed between now and the beginning of August. She could offer him lunch on 1 August. After consulting his diary, M. Fabius said that he would be happy to accept this invitation. He wished the meeting to be entirely informal and would bring only a Private Secretary with him. The Prime Minister said that this suited her well and she too would be accompanied only by a Private Secretary.

You will now wish to consider the practical arrangements for this visit. I assume that M. Fabius will fly in shortly before lunch and leave again in the afternoon. The Prime Minister does not envisage any talks with him beyond the lunch.

It was not clear whether M. Fabius had mentioned his plans to the Foreign Ministry, let alone the French Embassy here. My impression is that he has not.

I am copying this letter to Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury), Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and to David Williamson (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,
Charles Powell

Len Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIME MINISTER *gm.*

The French Prime Minister's Private Secretary telephoned this morning to say that M. Fabius would very much like to speak to you by telephone today. I have provisionally arranged that he will telephone you at 6 pm.

The Private Secretary either doesn't know exactly what he wants to talk about or wouldn't say. But he thought M. Fabius would propose himself for an early meeting with you, perhaps over a working lunch or dinner (for which he would come over here). I said that you were very heavily engaged between now and the summer break.

If this is indeed what he wants to suggest and you are willing to see him, dates which would be possible are:

Dinner on 31 July

Lunch on 1 August

or

[Dinner on 24] July (but this would be the evening before you leave for Washington next week, and not easy).

I can't think of any particular subjects which are likely to be bothering him except perhaps Eureka on which the Foreign Secretary and Mr. Pattie attend a meeting in Paris tomorrow.

gm.
(C. D. POWELL)

16 July 1985