



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 July 1985

MEETING WITH MONSIEUR FABIUS: 1 AUGUST 1985

I should record that the French Ambassador came to see me this afternoon to talk about M. Fabius' meeting with the Prime Minister on 1 August.

Since the French proposed the meeting, I felt justified in asking M. Viot what his Prime Minister would wish to discuss. He had no idea.

He asked me what I thought Mrs. Thatcher would raise. Biting back the temptation to say that I had no idea, I suggested the future of the European Community, the internal market (including harmonisation of indirect taxation), the European fighter aircraft, the Channel fixed link, South Africa, the respective economic situations of France and the UK, international economic questions (debt, the dollar and the U.S. deficit) and possibly East/West relations.

I added that on South Africa I thought that the Prime Minister would be interested in hearing an account on the amazing evolution of French policy which appeared to have taken place between Monday and Friday last week. On the Channel fixed link, I thought the Prime Minister would be particularly concerned by the problem of lorry quotas.

M. Viot asked whether I thought that the Prime Minister would wish to discuss EUREKA or the SDI. I replied that she would be happy to discuss EUREKA were M. Fabius to raise it although I did not think there was any particular aspect which caused her concern at present. The SDI would no doubt come up in the course of any general discussion of East/West relations and arms control. M. Viot asked whether the Prime Minister had learnt anything new on SDI during her recent visit to Washington. I said that the general impression had been that the research was moving faster than anyone had expected.

Do we have an informed idea what M. Fabius will raise?

(Charles Powell)

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