

PRIME MINISTER

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To be replaced

Anglo-German Consultations: Bonn: 31 October

I understand from Bonn that Chancellor Schmidt intends to propose participation in the Anglo-German Consultations on 31 October by the following Ministers:- Herr Genscher (Foreign Affairs)

- Herr Apel (Defence)
- Herr Lambsdorff (Economy)
- Herr Matthoefler (Finance)
- Herr Ertl (Agriculture)
- Herr Offergeld (Overseas Development)

You have already agreed in earlier minuting that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Defence Secretary should accompany you to Bonn. You agreed to hold over a decision on Mr. Walker's participation pending clarification of Herr Schmidt's intentions. Now that we know Herr Ertl will be present, you may wish to agree that Mr. Walker should come to Bonn.

This list will mean that your team has no interlocutor for Graf Lambsdorff. Since he is an important member of the Government, this is perhaps a pity. Would you be prepared to reconsider the question of participation of, say, Mr. Howell (Graf Lambsdorff is responsible, among other things, for German energy policy)? The point of having an equivalent for each German participant is that much of the day is taken up with bilaterals between specialist Ministers. From the attached outline programme, you will see that only 90 minutes late in the afternoon is spent in plenary session.

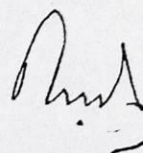
/ On the basis



On the basis that each Minister will want a private secretary and one official with him; that you have already agreed that Sir Robert Armstrong and Mr. Franklin should be of the party; and that there should be the normal (and in my view necessary) underpinning of detectives, Garden Room girls, press officer, etc., the total party is likely to be between twenty-five and thirty strong (depending on whether or not Mr. Howell comes). A party of this size can be accommodated in an Andover and the larger HS125.

I know that you will consider a party of this scale very large. But if you wish to try to develop relations with the German Government of the level and intensity of those that already exist between the French and German Governments, we have little option but to encourage departmental Ministers to develop close working relations with their opposite numbers. Meetings of the kind taking place on 31 October are much the best way of getting the process under way. Because of the way the talks are arranged, the presence of departmental Ministers in no way diminishes the impact of your own talk with Herr Schmidt. For the most part, your own talk will be tete-a-tete with only private secretaries present.

Do you agree that the party should be constituted as set out above? In particular, do you wish the Secretary of State for Energy to participate?



11 October 1979



14.43.  
ANGLO/GERMAN CONSULTATIONS: BONN: 31 OCTOBER

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Outline programme (all times local times)

0745	Depart Northolt
1015	Arrive Bonn/Cologne
1100	Talks start
1300	Working lunches
1430	Continuation of talks
1600	Plenary
1730	Press Conference
1800-1930	Speech by Lord Carrington
2000	Dinner
2230	Depart Bonn/Cologne
2300	Arrive Heathrow