

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO/GERMAN CONSULTATIONS: YOUR VISIT TO
BONN ON 31 OCTOBER

*Agree Mr. Pym
but they all incl-
one another re of
that cert- be
much part in
having now
Minister
not*

You decided in August that you wished to limit the Ministerial party accompanying you to Bonn for the next round of the Anglo/German consultations to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

*Bonn 476
(29.8.79)*

On receiving his instructions incorporating your decision, HM Ambassador in Bonn, Sir O. Wright, sent to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary a telegram analysing the implications, as he saw them, of your wish to be accompanied by only two Ministers. He expressed some anxiety about the likely German reaction. I refrained from submitting Sir O. Wright's telegram to you until I was assured the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary endorsed the case being made for some expansion of the party. I have now been told that Lord Carrington considers there is much force in the arguments in the Ambassador's telegram (copy attached) and that he hopes you will be prepared to look at the composition of the party again.

Would you be prepared to accept, in the light of the points made by Sir O. Wright, that -

- ✓ (a) the Secretary of State for Defence should be added to the party?(Mr. Pym has a meeting with his French and German colleagues a fortnight before your visit to Bonn but there will be bilateral topics that cannot be covered at this meeting);
- ✗ (b) the Secretary of State for Energy should be included? (I understand that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary thinks the case for Mr. Howell's inclusion is less strong than that for Mr. Pym.);
- (c) a decision about the inclusion of Mr. Walker should be held over until we see whether the Germans, as hosts, propose to include the CAP and/or the CFP on the agenda for the meeting? (The Federal Minister

CONFIDENTIAL /of Agriculture

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

of Agriculture Mr. Ertl, is pressing for his inclusion on the German team.)

My own view is that in general the arguments for keeping participation in bilateral meetings to a minimum are very strong. But the case can be made for regarding consultations of the kind taking place in Bonn next month as a series of bilaterals under your aegis between members of your Government and their opposite numbers. Your own bilateral with Herr Schmidt need only be interrupted to the extent that you wish to receive reports from your Ministers about the progress they have made. If the meeting is viewed in this way, the arguments against expansion of the party become, perhaps, slightly less strong.

Handwritten signature

10 September 1979

CONFIDENTIAL