

RESTRICTED



cc Mr John Coles, No 10
Mr Jonathan Spencer, DOI
*ad undisclosed to Role in
HMT also saw the ~~letter~~ letter.*

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

01-233 3000

27 October 1982

J E Holmes Esq
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Secretary of State
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ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT: PROGRAMME

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 25 October to John Coles, together with your proposed programme for the Chancellor's talks in Bonn this week.

As we had warned, more than once, the Chancellor did not find the programme at all satisfactory. He is strongly of the view, urged on him by FCO officials and by the Embassy at Bonn, that his first meeting with Herr Stoltenberg is rather important, particularly in the Community budget context, and ought not to be rushed. Your interpretation of your proposed programme would limit the meeting to 1 hour: the Embassy's interpretation is that it could last for only 45 minutes. The Chancellor is quite sure that this would be a mistake.

At his request, we have accordingly been in touch, via the Embassy at Bonn, with Herr Stoltenberg's office. Herr Stoltenberg too would prefer a substantive meeting. The Chancellor will accordingly fly to Germany to-morrow on a commercial flight, and will arrive in time for some 2/2½ hours of talks with Herr Stoltenberg before dinner.

The Embassy tell me that the Germans are considering whether the Chancellor's meeting with Count Lambsdorff could take place after dinner to-morrow, leaving the 9.15 slot on Friday morning for a resumed meeting with Herr Stoltenberg. We shall play this by ear.

Copies of this letter go to John Coles at No 10 and to Jonathan Spencer at DOI.

*Yours ever
J O Kerr*

J O KERR

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