

PRIME MINISTERMEETING WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD

President Giscard has now agreed the dates of 19/20 November for his visit to London.

The Queen has agreed to give President Giscard a private lunch, tete-a-tete, at Buckingham Palace on 20 November, i.e. immediately after the official part of the visit has ended.

? The French side have suggested that the Ministers of Defence and of Industry should participate in the meeting at some stage. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary recommends that you should agree that Mr. Pym and Sir Keith Joseph should have separate talks with their opposite numbers and participate in the plenary session, primarily to report on the outcome of their bilaterals. M. Barre, whose primary concern as Prime Minister of France is with economic affairs, will be in London for the first part of the visit. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary thinks, therefore, that it would be appropriate for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to attend any session at which M. Barre was present. Finally, Lord Carrington proposes to invite M. Francois-Poncet to meet with him while you are seeing President Giscard tete-a-tete.

I attach a draft telegram summarising the above. Can it be despatched?

① I think it is
a ridiculous idea.

R.A.

I can't see anything that isn't there.

14 September 1979

② a mistake more precise.

③ What do they want to get out of
Defense Ministers? I am very wary.

④ otherwise agreed, no.