

FLASH

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FM F.C.O. 031135Z

CONFIDENTIAL

TO FLASH PARIS TELEGRAM NO. 288 OF 3 MAY.

PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY.

YOUR TELEGRAM NO. 494 TO THE PUS.

WE TAKE THE POINT IN YOUR PARAGRAPH 2, BUT AS WE SHALL MENTION TO YOU ON THE TELEPHONE THE GENERAL VIEW HERE IS THAT YOU SHOULD GO NO FURTHER THAN SAYING THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WANTS TO FIX NEW DATES FOR SCHUMANN'S VISIT BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION THE SECOND WEEK IN JUNE IS REASONABLY CLEAR, DUE TO THE CANCELLATION OF MOBUTU'S VISIT, BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE WISE TO SUGGEST FIRM DATES SO NEAR THE POMPIDOU/HEATH MEETING JUST IN CASE THIS LATTER GOES WRONG. A LATER DATE WOULD BE SAFER AND AL PROBABLY MORE USEFUL IF WE CAN FIX ONE.

2. AS WE MENTIONED TO YOU OVER THE WEEKEND PLANS FOR SCHUMANN'S VISIT ON 20/21 MAY ARE ALREADY QUITE ADVANCED. FOR YOUR INFORMATION WE WERE LAYING ON A BIG DINNER AT TRINITY HOUSE PRECEDED BY A VISIT TO THE TOWER OF LONDON. INVITATIONS FOR THIS SHOULD NORMALLY GO OUT NOW, WHICH REINFORCES OUR NEED FOR AN EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE POMPIDOU/HEATH MEETING.

DOUGLAS-HOME

P R I S E C

PRIVATE SECRETARY

PS TO PUS

SECRET

18

3 May 1971

Thank you for your letter of 29 April covering records of talks with M. Bernard of the Elysee and M. Cuvillier in M. Schumann's Cabinet. These have been read by the Prime Minister.

P.T.S.M.

G.C.C. Tickell, Esq., M.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET

[Handwritten signature]

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COPY NO 3

Note of a Meeting held at 10 Downing Street, SW1, on
FRIDAY, 30 April 1971 at 11.30 am

PRESENT

The Rt Hon Edward Heath MP
Prime Minister

The Rt Hon Geoffrey Rippon QC MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of
Lancaster

Sir Denis Greenhill
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Hon Sir Con O'Neill
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Rt Hon Christopher Soames
British Ambassador
Paris

SECRETARIAT

Sir Burke Trend
Sir William Nield
Mr P E Thornton

SUBJECT

COMMON MARKET NEGOTIATIONS

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MR SOAMES said that he had seen M Jobert, Secretary General at the Elysee, on the previous day. The latter expected to hand over on Tuesday, 4 May, the French President's proposals for the agenda for a meeting with the Prime Minister. M Jobert had said that the proposed agenda would not cover all the outstanding issues in the negotiations: it was not clear whether only minor issues would be omitted but M Jobert had said that the Prime Minister could, of course, propose additions if the French list seemed inadequate. M Pompidou considered that the best time for the bilateral meeting, assuming both sides decided on it in the light of the exchanges of proposed agenda, would be 20/21 May in place of M Schumann's scheduled visit to London. If it were decided that the bilateral meeting should not go ahead M Schumann's visit would then take place as planned. Unfortunately M Schumann was not aware of these proposals and it was not clear when he would be told. M Jobert had added that if the Prime Minister would prefer to postpone the bilateral meeting until early in June he thought that this too could be arranged.

Mr Soames said that, on this basis, he would bring the proposed French agenda to London on 4 May, with M Jobert's comments on it, and would return to Paris on 5 May with any UK proposals for additions to the agenda (and our comments on them). The aim would then be to reach agreement with the French by the end of the week beginning 3 May on whether or not the bilateral meeting should take place on 20/21 May. In his view the bilateral meeting should be held as soon as possible and he recommended that the French proposals on timing and handling the matter should be accepted.

In discussion there was general agreement that 20/21 May would be the best time for a bilateral meeting and that it should be announced before the Ministerial meeting in Brussels which began on 10 May. Such prior announcement would avoid the appearance of having hastily arranged a bilateral meeting in an atmosphere of crisis arising from the Brussels meeting. While such prior announcement might reduce the determination of the Five in pressing for progress at the Brussels meeting, we should make plain to them, as to the French, that some progress in Brussels was in our view a most important preliminary to a satisfactory bilateral meeting: always provided, of course, that progress was not reached by the Five accepting French proposals which we would find unacceptable. The Federal German Chancellor would be in London on Thursday, 6 May and it would be necessary (with the agreement of the Elysee) to give him some notice of our discussions with the French about a bilateral meeting.

In further discussion it was suggested that the Prime Minister should open his meeting with M Pompidou by setting out in some detail his views about the future of Western Europe in the spheres of economics, politics and defence. Only after he had demonstrated in this way his full commitment to "Europeanism" should he start a discussion of the problems for settlement in the negotiations.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that our Ambassador would bring to London on Tuesday, 4 May, M Pompidou's proposals for the agenda for a bilateral meeting and M Jobert's comments upon these proposals: he could make it clear that he would not wish to exclude from discussion any subject which M Pompidou wished to discuss. Meanwhile we would consider what items we would wish to see on the agenda of such a meeting and what should be said to M Jobert about them. Our Ambassador would return to Paris with our proposals and comments on 5 May. In the light of these exchanges both Governments would have to decide whether a meeting should take place between M Pompidou and himself on 20/21 May. The aim should be to reach a joint decision and make an announcement not later than Saturday, 8 May. Our Ambassador should clear with the Elysee that the Federal German Chancellor should be told when he visited London on 5/6 May that the possibility of an early meeting between the French President and the Prime Minister was being actively discussed between them.

The Meeting -

Took note, with approval, of the Prime Minister's summing up of their discussion.

Cabinet Office SW1
30 April 1971

