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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 April 1985

*Dear Charles,*Bilateral Meetings during the Economic Summit

Your letter of 22 February said that the Prime Minister's order of preference for bilaterals at the Bonn Summit was President Reagan, Mr Mulroney and Mr Nakasone. She also expressed a willingness to fit one in with Signor Craxi if there is a good operational reason.

As Mr Mulroney will now be visiting London on his way to Bonn, a separate bilateral is not necessary.

As regards a bilateral with President Reagan I enclose a copy of Washington telno 1242. You will see from this that apart from a bilateral with Nakasone the Americans are not envisaging any bilaterals during the Summit itself. The only time they have suggested as free for a bilateral with the Prime Minister is on 4 May, after the press conference and before the dinner. This would be of no use if the Prime Minister wished to discuss Summit matters. The Prime Minister is herself free between her arrival at 1600 on 2 May and the Federal Chancellor's reception at 1830. We have not as yet sought any bilaterals at that time.

Sir Oliver Wright's advice is that if the Prime Minister wishes to have a bilateral with President Reagan during the Summit, we shall need to get a firm bid in soon, making clear the issues to be covered. Would the Prime Minister wish us to do so?

The Japanese have indicated that Mr Nakasone would be free at 1830 on Saturday 4 May (i.e. after the press conference and before dinner). We would recommend that the Prime Minister should accept this; although the Summit itself will then substantially be over, there will be other UK/Japan issues which can be covered.

As regards the French, their Embassy have now told us that President Mitterrand has proposed a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister from 1830 to 1930 on Friday 3 May at

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the Palais Schaumburg. We recommend that the Prime Minister accepts. There has been no substantive bilateral between them since the Anglo-French Summit at the end of November last year. This would be an opportunity to review European Community issues between the Brussels and Milan Councils, and to exchange views on other international questions not covered at the Summit itself. Given Mitterrand's sensitivities, a rejection of the French request would risk being interpreted as a snub unless it were accompanied by an alternative suggestion for a bilateral meeting before Milan. At present the time suggested by the French is free.

We see no operational reason for a meeting with Sr Craxi at this stage.

Yours ever,

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Private Secretary

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1242 OF 11 APRIL

INFO PARIS, BONN, OTTAWA, ROME, UKREP BRUSSELS, TOKYO

YOUR TELNO 621: BONN SUMMIT: BILATERALS

1. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO SOMMER (NSC) AND NILES (STATE).
2. SOMMER SAID THAT THE ONLY BILATERAL MEETING WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAD FIRMLY ACCEPTED WAS ONE WITH NAKASONE. THIS MEETING WAS NOT OF COURSE AN INFORMAL BILATERAL IN THE USUAL SENSE SINCE IT HAD BEEN ARRANGED AND ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE REAGAN/NAKASONE MEETING ON THE WEST COAST IN JANUARY. WITH THE FURORE NOW BUILDING UP OVER US/JAPANESE TRADE ISSUES, THE NEED FOR IT WAS EVEN MORE EVIDENT. ITS SCHEDULING WAS BEING MADE EASIER BY THE FACT THAT BOTH REAGAN AND NAKASONE WERE ARRIVING IN BONN WELL AHEAD OF THE OPENING OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT.
3. SOMMER ADDED THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF PRESSURE FROM THE FRENCH FOR A MITTERRAND/REAGAN BILATERAL BUT THAT THIS HAD NOT YET BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE AMERICAN SIDE. A BILATERAL LUNCH IN STRASBOURG ON 8 MAY HAD EARLIER BEEN AGREED BUT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAD REACTED VIOLENTLY TO THIS AND THE COUTCOME WAS THAT MITTERRAND WOULD NOT NOW BE GOING TO STRASBOURG. THE FRENCH WERE MAKING CONSIDERABLE PLAY WITH THE FACT THAT MITTERRAND WOULD BE THE ONLY SUMMIT PARTICIPANT NOT TO HAVE MET THE PRESIDENT BILATERALLY SINCE HIS RE-ELECTION. SOMMER STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT A MITTERRAND/REAGAN BILATERAL IN BONN WOULD BE AGREED.
4. SOMMER SAID NO OTHER BILATERALS WERE ENVISAGED (ALTHOUGH HE IMPLIED SEVERAL WERE BEING SOUGHT). THE TIMING WAS VERY TIGHT. THE BREAKFASTS DURING THE SUMMIT WERE FIRMLY EARMARKED FOR INTERNAL BRIEFING MEETINGS FOR THE PRESIDENT. THIS WAS NOW PRETTY INVARIABLE PRACTICE AND THE AMERICANS WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ABANDON IT. BUT IF THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED A FIRM DESIRE TO HAVE A BILATERAL HE WAS SURE THAT WOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.
5. NILES HAS POINTED OUT THAT THE ONLY REAL GAP HE CAN SEE IN THE SCHEDULE IS BETWEEN THE PRESS CONFERENCE AND THE DINNER ON 4 MAY BUT THAT WOULD BE OF NO USE IF THE PRIME MINISTER WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH THE PRESIDENT THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE SUMMIT ITSELF.

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6. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE DOOR IS NOT CLOSED TO A PILATERAL BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER BUT NOR IS IT OPEN. IF IT IS TO BE OPENED WE WILL NEED AN EARLY AND FIRM STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S WISHES, AND SOME INDICATION OF THE QUESTIONS SHE WILL WISH TO COVER. UNLESS WE ARE READY TO GO FOR THE POST-ECONOMIC SUMMIT SLOT (PARA 4 ABOVE), THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS COULD BE INCREASED IF WE WERE ABLE TO OFFER SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S ARRIVAL TIME IN BONN, BEARING IN MIND ALSO THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN IS STAYING OUTSIDE BONN AT SCHLOSS GYMNICH.

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Summit:

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