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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG
CABINET OFFICE

Anglo-French Summit: Follow-Up

The Prime Minister has seen your minute A05640 of 23 September 1981 and has strongly endorsed the need for the kind of follow-up to the recent Anglo-French bilateral meetings which you described in your minute.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Mr. Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

V
C. A. WHITMORE

24 September 1981

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1. Prime Minister

May I say that you strongly endorse the need for his kind

of follow-up?

Yes
23/9

Ref. A05640

PRIME MINISTER

Yes no

Anglo-French Summit: Follow Up

As you know, the recent Anglo-French bilateral meetings were notable not only for the greatly improved atmosphere which permeated the various discussions, but also for the evident desire on the French side, and particularly of the new President himself, to see this improvement translated into joint action on the various specific topics which were raised.

2. I called a meeting last week of the Permanent Secretaries whose Departments are responsible for ensuring that the necessary follow up action is taken on our side. On many of the points action is already in hand or the common interest is such that discussion can be pursued without any special push being given. But there are many other matters, particularly on the industrial side, where we ought both to demonstrate our determination to follow up the matters that were discussed and to keep up the pressure on the French if good intentions are not to evaporate. As a first step, therefore, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will ask the Embassy in Paris to make sure that the French are working to the same agenda as ourselves. The Cabinet Office will assemble a progress report before Christmas which I will discuss at a further meeting of Permanent Secretaries, as a basis for a further report to you and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the other Ministers concerned.

3. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

23 September 1981