

Prime Minister

To note.

Ref. A07927

PRIME MINISTER

A.F.C. 25/3

MT

Anglo-French Summit: Follow-Up

1. In my minute of 23 September 1981 following last year's successful Anglo-French Summit, I undertook to report further on the steps which were being set in hand in Whitehall to co-ordinate the follow-up to the Summit. The purpose was to capitalise on the improvement in Anglo-French relations and to try to ensure that it was translated into joint action.
2. The first step was to compile a comprehensive check-list of the items which required follow-up action. This list was discussed by a meeting of Permanent Secretaries on 18 September 1981, and I held another meeting on 9 March to review progress. The general view was that we needed to continue to keep the whole field under review so that we could be more co-ordinated in dealing with the French. An interdepartmental group is being set up for this purpose under the chairmanship of Mr Wade-Gery.
3. Subsequently, Lord Carrington met his French opposite number, Monsieur Cheysson, at Chevening on 15 March to review progress on the main items of the follow-up check list as well as to discuss major international issues. The meeting went reasonably well. A lot of ground was covered and the French were in the main constructive. As a result of the meeting, further follow-up action was agreed which is set out in the Annex to this minute.
4. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.



ROBERT ARMSTRONG

25th March 1982

MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND M CHEYSSON,  
CHEVENING, 15 MARCH

Check-List of Points for Follow-Up

1. Extended visit to France by Secretary of State  
To be taken up later in the year. Dates to be suggested by UK side in due course.
2. Franco-British Council Conference, Edinburgh  
UK side to suggest programme in Scotland for M Cheysson. Latter to consider how long he would stay. Basis of participation of French Ministers to be clarified.
3. Anglo-French Summit  
French side to propose dates soon.
4. Lecteurs at UK Universities  
Draw DES' attention to French concern that lecteurs may be a priority target for cuts.
5. Rating of French cultural premises  
Consider possibility of EC Regulation exempting cultural institutes in member states from local taxes/rates.
6. Oil market  
Bilateral officials' group to be formed with political/economic input to consider effects of falling oil prices. Bridges/Paye to discuss.
7. European defence/public attitudes to defence  
To be discussed at bilateral Politico-Military talks in April. French side (Andréani) to respond to proposal for renewed talks at Ministerial level (Mr Hurd).
8. EC/Japan  
Bilateral meeting of officials to be arranged.