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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 October 1985

Dear Charles,

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Prime Minister
You will wish to
note this. I have
said 25 October is out

Possible Meeting between The Prime Minister and President Reagan
in New York

Added because you have Cabinet

In your letter of 7 October you said it would be helpful to know whether the President intends to hold any bilaterals in the margin of the Summit Seven meeting.

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The Embassy report that Chancellor Kohl is not at present too popular with the President's handlers. The Germans have for over a month been pressing for a full bilateral visit to Washington, and the Chancellor's spokesman indeed announced in mid-September that such a visit would take place before the Geneva Summit. The White House have been anxious to keep the President's schedule slim: no such invitation has been issued. And our understanding is that it was partly in the hope of shutting up the Germans that the White House issued invitations for the multilateral meeting on 24 October. The Germans earned further disfavour by going public with the invitations before all had even been delivered, and then compounded the offence in US eyes by announcing that the Chancellor would also have a separate bilateral meeting with the President.

The Embassy's NSC contacts say that the President is now resigned to the necessity of having such a separate bilateral meeting with Kohl, but is determined that it should be brief, and in New York, and in the margins of the 24 October meeting. They say that plans for other bilaterals are still inchoate, but they are pretty sure that the President will want to have a session with the Prime Minister as well.

The Embassy have been asked whether it would be feasible for the Prime Minister to stay on in New York to see the President on 25 October if it proved impossible to schedule an earlier meeting there. I should be grateful for your reaction to that. So far the Embassy have said in response only that the Prime Minister would be delighted to have a talk if the opportunity were to arise, adding on a personal basis that it would clearly be more convenient for the Prime Minister if she and the President could meet on 23 or 24 October.

Yours ever,
Colin Budd

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(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

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