

Ref. A07144

MR. WHITMORE

The Secretary General at the Elysee rang me up this afternoon to confirm the good news that Mark Thatcher had been found in good order. He said that the President was delighted to have the news, and shared the pleasure and relief which he knew the Prime Minister would be feeling. He would not seek to attribute credit for the discovery to any one factor in the operation; but it was clear that he believed that the assistance sent by the French had materially contributed to the success of the operation.


2. I said that the Prime Minister was indeed delighted that Mark had been found in good order, and was deeply grateful to all those who had engaged in the search operation - and not least for the assistance which the President had authorised.

3. The Prime Minister may well already have sent a message to the President; if she has not, I wonder if she would consider sending him a message
_____ on the lines of the draft attached.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14th January, 1982


DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
HIS EXCELLENCY MONSIEUR FRANCOIS
MITTERRAND, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH
REPUBLIC

I was extremely grateful to you, not only for the messages which you sent expressing your concern at my son's disappearance and your pleasure at his discovery, but also for your generous offer of prompt and effective assistance in the search operation. I believe that that made an important contribution to Mark and his companion being discovered in good order. I shall not forget the speed with which your offer was made and the spirit which prompted it.

Please accept this assurance of my warmest gratitude to you and to the French men and women who, as a result of your initiative, contributed to the search operation and to its happy outcome.

With my best wishes to you for 1982.