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*File 116*  
*France*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

1 April 1980

*RF 15.4.80*

ANGLO/FRENCH SUMMIT

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Prime Minister had a word this afternoon about the Prime Minister's visit to France in September (Sir R. Armstrong's minute of 27 March to me refers).

The Prime Minister's present intention is to fly to Bordeaux on the evening of Thursday 18 September and to stay until Saturday 20 September. How long she stays on the Saturday depends in large part on what President Giscard has in mind in saying that "he would be happy to arrange a programme for her". The Prime Minister would be happy to spend all or part of the day looking at the region. However, she would only be prepared to do this if President Giscard himself were to be involved and there was, therefore, an opportunity for informal conversation with him. If the President did not plan to be involved, the Prime Minister would prefer to return to London in mid-morning.

Sir R. Armstrong will be telling M. Wahl that the Prime Minister will be happy for the bilateral talks to take place in Bordeaux, and that we will be pursuing the details through the normal channels. Before we carry the matter any further, it would be useful to have Sir R. Hibbert's comments on the proposal. In particular it would be useful to have his comments on the possibility of arranging an interesting programme on Saturday and of the likelihood of the President being involved. When we have these, we might suggest to the Prime Minister that she send a personal message to President Giscard saying that she is much looking forward to the visit and to spending some time with him.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

G. G. H. Walden, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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