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FM PARIS 011649Z MAY 79
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 271 OF 1 JUNE 1979.

Prime Minister

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MY TELNO 265 : PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO PARIS.

1. IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT GISCARD AND M. BARRE, THE OTHER PRINCIPAL FRENCH POLITICAL PERSONALITY WHOM THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MEET ON 5 JUNE WILL BE M. ALAIN PEYREFITTE. M. PEYREFITTE IS MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND NUMBER TWO IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AFTER M. BARRE. HE HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT WHEN BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAVE SIMULTANEOUSLY BEEN AWAY ABROAD.

2. M. PEYREFITTE (LPR NO 230) IS CURRENTLY THE OBJECT OF POLITICAL ATTENTION HERE FOR TWO REASONS:

(A) AS THE LEADING GAULLIST IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, HE HAS INSPIRED MUCH OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE GAULLIST PARTY TO CHIRAC'S LEADERSHIP. HE PUBLICLY ATTACKED CHIRAC LAST DECEMBER FOLLOWING THE LATTER'S VIOLENT CRITICISMS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EUROPEAN POLICY.

(B) OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS, PEYREFITTE HAS ENTERED THE PUBLIC DEBATE BEING STIRRED UP BY THE LEFT ABOUT THE HANDLING OF RIOTERS ARRESTED IN PARIS DURING A RECENT STEELWORKERS' DEMONSTRATION. HE HAS INSISTED THAT THERE ARE NO GROUNDS FOR SUSPECTING THE JUDGES OF POLITICAL MOTIVATION IN METING OUT HEAVY SENTENCES AGAINST THOSE CONVICTED. BUT THIS AFFAIR IS NOT YET OVER AND COULD STILL BECOME A SOURCE OF SOME EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT.

3. M. BOURGES, THE DEFENCES MINISTER (LPR 43) WILL ALSO BE AT LUNCH. HE HAS BEEN AT DEFENCE SINCE 1975 AND IS AN EXPERIENCED MINISTER WHO IS RESPECTED WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. BUT HE CARRIES LESS WEIGHT WITHIN THE GAULLIST PARTY, TO WHICH HE BELONGS, THAN PEYREFITTE.

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4. IN ADDITION TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR AT LONDON, THERE ARE FIVE SENIOR FRENCH OFFICIALS WHOM THE PRIME MINISTER IS LIKELY TO MEET:

(A) JACQUES WAHL, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE, BEFORE

BECOMING ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL IN THE ELYSEE (A POST FROM WHICH WAHL WAS PROMOTED TO SECRETARY-GENERAL FOLLOWING FRANCOIS-PONCET'S APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER LAST NOVEMBER), WAHL WAS FRENCH ECONOMIC MINISTER IN WASHINGTON AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE IMF AND WORLD BANK.

(B) BRUNO DE LEUSSE HAS ONLY JUST BEEN APPOINTED SECRETARY-

GENERAL (PUS) AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY, HAVING BEEN FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW SINCE 1976. HE HAS SERVED IN THE MAIN FRENCH MISSIONS ABROAD AND HAS ALSO BEEN PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO TWO LEADING GAULLIST FOREIGN MINISTERS (MICHEL DEBRE AND MAURICE COUVE DE MURVILLE - THE LATTER ALSO WHEN HE WAS PRIME MINISTER).

(C) GABRIEL ROBIN WAS IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN LONDON BEFORE

BEING APPOINTED DIPLOMATIC ADVISER AT THE ELYSEE IN 1974. LIKE WAHL, HE IS CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT.

(D) JACQUES ANDREANI IS ONE OF THE QUAI D'ORSAY'S LEADING SOVIET

EXPERTS. HE HAS A CONSIDERABLE GRASP OF STRATEGIC ISSUES AND LED FRANCE'S CSCE DELEGATION IN 1973-74. HIS PRESENT POSITION IS DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

HIBBERT.

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