

This is a copy. The original has been extracted and retained under S3(4). *And* (2)

Prime Minister: Sir R. Armstrong has rung

Ref. A05492

MR. ALEXANDER

to say that M. Beregovoy returned to the charge at dinner. The French are clearly hoping that you will be prepared to say something positive about the Channel Link in public: "It would be wonderful if she could..." *And* 10/9

Monsieur Beregovoy, the Secretary General at the Elysee, came to see me at his request this evening.

2. I should report two outstanding points from the conversation, in case the Prime Minister needs to take them into account before she sees the President again tomorrow:

- (a) Monsieur Beregovoy was very pressing for some demonstration of practical bilateral co-operation to emerge from the meeting between the President and the Prime Minister. He fastened particularly on the Channel Tunnel. He suggested that the President and the Prime Minister should "relaunch" the idea of the Tunnel. It was a matter of getting beyond the stage of waiting for something to happen. They should make a definite statement of intention, which would be a demonstration of intention on practical co-operation and would have an impact on public opinion.
- (b) Monsieur Beregovoy reverted to the subject of Northern Ireland, which we had discussed briefly during my visit to Paris on 20th August. I seized the opportunity to give him a long account of our position on the matter, which he was good enough to say had enlarged his understanding of the problems which we faced.

Paragraph 3 deleted and retained under Section 3(4).

Wayland  
8 September 2011

4. I am sending a copy of this minute to Mr. Fall (FCO).

REA

10th September, 1981

ROBERT ARMSTRONG