

SECRET



Re B3
Defence

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 August 1981

Transfer of Plutonium to France

The Prime Minister has seen Michael Arthur's letter to me of 11 August.

She is willing to let the deal between BNFL and CEA go ahead, without insisting that the French accept IAEA Safeguards. She has, however, commented that since President Mitterand, as head of the French Government, will have to defend the deal, she would, in his position, wish to be informed about it. She considers however that the internal arrangements for advice and consent in France must be a matter for the French, and that it is for French officials to decide whether to consult President Mitterand and not for her.

I am copying this letter to Julian West (Department of Energy), Brian Norbury (Ministry of Defence), Peter Jenkins (HM Treasury) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

W. F. S. RICKETT

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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