

1. MR. COLES

*We shall see.
A.F.C. 3*

[Handwritten signature]

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2. PRIME MINISTER

I took a telephone call from Peter Walker this afternoon. He reported a conversation with his opposite number from the FRG about M. Mitterrand's attitude to the Commission's proposals on the Mandate. Apparently Herr Genscher spoke to Cheysson yesterday, and told him that he was shocked by Mitterrand's attitude. If the French took this line, he said, it would not be worth holding the Foreign Affairs Council on Saturday. At this, Cheysson backed off and said that M. Mitterrand had been misunderstood. The President had not meant that the Commission's proposals were unacceptable as a basis for discussion. He had simply meant that, because they contained no details or figures, they were unacceptable as a basis for conclusions.

The German Agriculture Minister said that Genscher had concluded from this that the French would be willing to negotiate at the Foreign Affairs Council.

I have passed this message to Lord Carrington's Office.

LM

31 March 1982