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PRIME MINISTER

I attach a reply from President Mitterrand to the message you sent to him (and others) after Mr. Haig's visit here at the end of January.

President Mitterrand's letter reads, in translation:

"Madam Prime Minister, in accordance with the wish expressed in the telegram which you sent me on 29 January, a meeting of high level officials from France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy and the United States took place on 2 February, before the North Atlantic Council meeting of 3 February.

This meeting, which was attended by the Political Director and Economic Director of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was useful in clarifying points of view and calming down the discussion on economic relations with the Soviet Union.

I believe, like you, that the European countries must make a positive contribution to a concerted effort by the Alliance, though this contribution should not exceed that of the United States which, in the agricultural field, is showing extreme caution.

You will equally have noted that the decision taken by the EC countries to re-classify the Soviet Union as a rich country, to which ~~the~~^{it} applied higher commercial interest rates, was the result of a common wish."

A-J-C.