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 FM PARIS 171230Z OCT 83  
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 934 OF 17TH OCTOBER

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT, 20-21 OCTOBER.

SUMMARY.

1. I CALLED ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE TODAY TO DISCUSS PREPARATION FOR THE BILATERAL SUMMIT. DIANCO AND ATTALI, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, EXPRESSED THE FRENCH WISH TO EMPHASISE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. GIVEN THE LIKELY THRUST OF JOURNALISTIC INTEREST THEY ALSO WISH TO DISCOURAGE SPECULATION THAT THIS SUMMIT WILL BE THE OCCASION FOR AN ATTEMPT BY THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER TO RESOLVE NATIONAL DIFFERENCES ON EC QUESTIONS.

DETAIL.

2. THE FRENCH LIST OF TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO OURS. THEY AGREE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' REPORT SHOULD BE NOTED AND CONFIRMED.

STRATEGIC QUESTIONS.

3. THEY AGREE ON THE IMPORTANCE FOR PUBLIC OPINION, GOING BEYOND FRANCE AND BRITAIN, OF PRESENTING A FIRM AND UNITED STAND ON INF AND EAST/WEST RELATIONS MORE GENERALLY.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

4. DIANCO DID NOT DENY WHEN I SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS PROGRESS TOWARDS FULFILLING THE STUTTGART MANDATE AND PREPARING THE ATHENS COUNCIL. THE FRENCH INDICATED THAT THEY WILL CALL FOR FINANCIAL RIGOUR TO BE IMPOSED ON OTHER POLICIES AS WELL AS THE CAP, A SUBJECT WHICH THEY CLAIM HAS SO FAR BEEN NEGLECTED POST-STUTTGART. MITTERRAND CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE UP THE THEME DEVELOPED BY DELORS IN BRUSSELS THAT FUTURE FINANCING OF THE COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH BY A PURELY BUDGETARY APPROACH, BUT MUST BE SET IN THE CONTEXT OF A WIDER RELAUNCHING OF EUROPE, A KEY ELEMENT OF WHICH WILL BE GREATER ENCOURAGEMENT FOR EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION. HE WILL HOWEVER ACCEPT THE NEED TO AVOID ANYTHING TOO BLATANTLY DIRIGISTE IN THE WAY OF AN INDUSTRIAL POLICY.

BILATERAL.

5. THE FRENCH WILL MAKE A STRONG PITCH FOR GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT FOR THE AIRBUS A320, WHICH THEY REGARD AS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE FUTURE OF AIRBUS INDUSTRIE. AT LEAST IN PRESENTATIONAL TERMS, THEY ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE MEETING OF DEFENCE MINISTERS AND WILL WANT TO STRESS PUBLICLY THE POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION IN THIS FIELD. THEY THINK IT BETTER TO TREAT THE FIVE BANKS REPORT ON THE CHANNEL FIXED LINK IN A VERY LOW KEY,

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TO AVOID YET ANOTHER AFFIRMATION OF NO MORE THAN READINESS TO STUDY THE PROPOSALS SERIOUSLY. ATTALI THOUGHT THAT MITTERRAND WOULD WANT TO SAY NOTHING ON THE SUBJECT UNTIL THERE IS A FIRM BILATERAL DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT.

6. OTHER BILATERAL TOPICS WHICH THEY AGREE WOULD RATE A MENTION BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER (AND PUBLIC EMPHASIS AS EXAMPLES OF POSITIVE FRANCO-BRITISH EXCHANGES) ARE THE CROSS-CHANNEL ELECTRIC CABLE, FAST BREEDER COLLABORATION AND, FURTHER INTO THE FUTURE, THE GAS LINK. ATTALI WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO SIR R ARMSTRONG ABOUT MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING RECIPROCITY OF ACCESS TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKETS, IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRIVATISATION OF BRITISH TELECOM. FABUS WILL ALSO WISH TO PURSUE THIS WITH MR TEBBIT.

LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT.

7. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT, ATTALI THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNOLOGY GROUP ESTABLISHED BY THE VERSAILLES SUMMIT, IN PARTICULAR THE PROJECTS IN WHICH FRANCE AND BRITAIN EXERCISE JOINT LEADERSHIP.

FALKLANDS.

8. I PUT BIANCO ON NOTICE THAT ANOTHER SUBJECT IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MIND WOULD BE THE FALKLANDS, INCLUDING THE PROSPECTIVE UNGA RESOLUTION.

FRETWELL

STANDARD  
WED  
MR THOMAS