

Prime Minister

Ref. A083/3209

PRIME MINISTER

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- I have just received a call from Monsieur Attali in Paris.
2. Making it clear that he was speaking on the President's instructions he said that France would abstain in the vote on the Falklands resolution.
  3. He went on to add that the President was trying his best to achieve European unity on this position. He could not be absolutely sure of success, but he was hopeful.
  4. I expressed suitable appreciation and gratitude, and promised to pass the message straight on to you.
  5. You will have seen from the letter which I sent to Clive Whitmore yesterday (of which I sent John Coles a copy) that the Elysee appear to be making some link between this and SKYNET.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

10 November 1983

4.45 pm

SECRET and PERSONAL



Prime Minister  
A.S.C. 9/11

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*From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service*

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref.A083/3184

9 November 1983

*My dear Aine,*

*ms*

As I told you on the telephone this afternoon, I received a call yesterday evening from Monsieur Attali, the Special Adviser to the President of the French Republic.

During the course of this call Monsieur Attali told me, and asked me to convey to the Prime Minister, that the President attached the highest importance to our forthcoming decision about SKYNET. This was said with a good deal of emphasis, in the course of a conversation in which Monsieur Attali was giving welcome news on two other fronts (that, despite the pressures on France to vote for the Falklands resolution in the United Nations General Assembly, the French Ambassador to the United Nations would be instructed to abstain; and (more trivially) that the President had withdrawn his objections to the dates which we were proposing for the Economic Summit 1984).

The decision on the Falklands resolution is obviously of considerable importance and significance to us; it would be very damaging if France were to vote for the resolution. So I think that, in the context of this telephone conversation, we have to take seriously the considerable stress which Attali laid upon the importance which the President attaches to SKYNET.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Defence.

*Yours ever*  
*Robert*

Sir Clive Whitmore KCB CVO

SECRET and PERSONAL

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A J Coles Esq



# CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of  
Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO  
*Secretary of the Cabinet*  
*and Head of the*  
*Home Civil Service*

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