

010



N. Douglas
Can we discuss timing please.

Ref. A084/459

1200 Talk =
1200 Lunch =

MR COLLES

A.S.C. - $\frac{15}{2}$

A.S.C. - $\frac{17}{2}$

f.c.

Visit of President Mitterrand

I spoke to Monsieur Attali this morning, to convey the Prime Minister's invitation to President Mitterrand to visit Chequers for talks and lunch on Monday 5 March. He rang back within three hours on the President's instructions to accept the invitation.

2. I said that we could discuss the details further when he was over here in 10 days' time. We could not, however, make all the detailed arrangements between us, and we should have to put those in the hands of others. For our part we should be ready to put them in the hands of the British Ambassador in Paris, subject to suitable instructions as to confidentiality. Monsieur Attali suggested that it would be convenient for the arrangements to be made through the French Embassy here, since the visit was to this country. I said that I thought that we should be prepared to go along with that. He said he would inform Monsieur de Margevie of what was proposed, and agreed that I should myself have a word with Monsieur de Margevie when I saw him tomorrow evening. The discussion of the detailed arrangements would be subject to reference to the Elysee and to the Cabinet Office/No 10 on any point of political significance.

3. Monsieur Attali suggested that it would be useful for him and me to meet before the President's visit, as we did before the Prime Minister's visit to Paris. I said that I should be very ready to do this: perhaps on this occasion supported by Mr Williamson and Monsieur Morel.

4. Nothing was said about when the President's visit might be announced. I presume that we should aim to make an announcement on the previous Friday, 2 March; but that can be discussed with Monsieur Attali when he comes to London.

5. I formed the impression that Sir John Fretwell was not the only Ambassador whose nose had been put out of joint by the way in which the arrangements for the Prime Minister's visit to Paris had been made.



6. I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretary to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and to Sir Antony Acland.

Re

Approved by
ROBERT ARMSTRONG
and signed in his absence.

8 February 1984

CONQUEROR



COMMISSIONER

.....
29 FEB 1984

11 12 13
14 15 16
17 18 19
20 21 22

v