

DEDIP CONFIDENTIAL

*Answer Mr*

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PP PARIS

GRS 231

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FM FCO 141200Z FEB 84

TO PRIORITY PARIS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 129 OF 14 FEBRUARY

VISIT OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: 5 MARCH

1. SIR R ARMSTRONG TOLD ATTALI ON 8 FEBRUARY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WISHED TO INVITE PRESIDENT MITTERRAND TO CHEQUERS FOR TALKS AND LUNCH ON MONDAY 5 MARCH. THE PRESIDENT HAS ACCEPTED. DETAILS WILL BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN ARMSTRONG AND ATTALI AT NEXT WEEKEND'S SHERPAS' MEETING. ATTALI SUGGESTED THAT DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE AND SAID HE WOULD SPEAK TO MARGERIE. IT WAS AGREED THAT ARMSTRONG AND ATTALI WOULD HAVE POINTS OF POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE REFERRED TO THEM.

2. ARMSTRONG AND ATTALI ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THEM TO MEET BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AS THEY DID BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER WENT TO PARIS. ARMSTRONG SUGGESTED THAT THEY BE SUPPORTED BY WILLIAMSON AND MOREL.

3. NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT THE TIMING OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT. THIS CAN BE DISCUSSED NEXT WEEKEND BUT WE WOULD AIM TO MAKE IT, AS BEFORE, ON THE PREVIOUS FRIDAY, IE 2 MARCH.

GUTMANN

4. THE PUS DOUBTS THE USEFULNESS NOW OF HOLDING HIS TALKS WITH GUTMANN ON 5 MARCH AND WISHES TO POSTPONE THEM. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER GUTMANN CAN YET BE TOLD OF THE REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT. SUBJECT TO THE VIEWS OF SIR R ARMSTRONG AND ATTALI WE ARE PLANNING TO SUGGEST POSTPONEMENT THROUGH THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE.

5. AT THIS STAGE NO ACTION IS REQUIRED BY YOU.

HOWE

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PS/NO.10

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PS/SIR R ARMSTRONG

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SIR J BULLARD

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