PRIME MINISTER

Visit of President Mitterrand: 5 March

Could I have your decisions on one or two points.

You have said that you will meet the President at Benson. If you travel to Chequers in the same car as him you will need an interpreter - and I think that will mean that the back of the car is too crowded. Do you therefore agree that you should travel separately and go ahead of the President in order to receive him at Chequers? Yes mk

The present arrangement for departure is that you would not go to the airport (you have to return to London) and that the President will be seen off by the Foreign Secretary's special representative (Sir David Muirhead). I think this is perfectly all right. President Mitterrand neither met you nor saw you off when you went over for lunch. Content? Yes mk

We have agreed with the French that both the talks from 1130 until 1300 and the lunch will be on a tête-à-tête basis with just notetakers present.

There will, however, be about five other people in President Mitterrand's party - ranging from Elysee officials to his doctor. We are asking Vera to arrange a separate lunch for them.

A.J.C. mk

29 February 1984