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FROM: THE RT. HON. JULIAN AMERY, M.P.

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PERSONAL

ATF  
② CDP

*Dear Margaret,*

In view of your involvement with Heads of Government meetings in the European Community and outside it, I thought you might like to know the following:

There is much speculation in Paris as to when President Mitterand will force a showdown with Prime Minister Chirac. M. Dailly, the senior Vice-President of the Senate and a very old friend, tells me that in spite of frequent suggestions that the showdown would come this autumn he is convinced that the President wants to wait until April when he could tell the French people, "you have now had a year of the new Government and can judge for yourselves whether they have delivered the goods".

In Dailly's opinion, he would then resign. He could then retire or possibly stand again as the man who had,

- a) rid the Socialist Party of the Communist incubus
- b) ensured that the Constitution worked despite the clash between Government and Party affiliations and
- c) defended French interests in defence and foreign policy.

I am copying this letter to Geoffrey Howe but would be grateful if its source could be kept to yourselves. Dailly hopes to succeed Poher as President of the Senate and I think has a good chance of doing so. He was offered the Ministry of Justice by Chirac but opted to continue his career in the Senate.

*Julian Amery*

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The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP