

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORD OF MEETING WITH JACQUES CHIRAC, THE MAYOR OF
PARIS AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER, 29th SEPTEMBER, 1981

Present:-

Jacques Chirac

Couve de Murville - former Prime Minister

Jean de Lipkowski - former Secretary of State Foreign Affairs

Alois Moch - Leader of the Austrian Peoples Party and
Chairman of European Democratic Union

Andreas Khol - Secretary General European Democratic Union

Alistair McAlpine - Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party

Sir Anthony Royle - Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party

Roger Boaden - Deputy Director Finance, Central Office

1. A discussion took place on the attitude of the RPR to EDU. M. Chirac underlined his determination to give full support to EDU and apologised that due to domestic elections his Party had not paid its subscription in the past. This would now be corrected. RPR would not only pay past dues and future subscription in full, but also wished to invite the leaders of EDU to hold their 1982 meeting in Paris as its guests. Anthony Royle expressed his appreciation and assured M. Chirac that his invitation would be put to Mrs Thatcher.
2. Anthony Royle questioned M. Chirac about the position of non-Socialist Parties in France since Mitterand's victory. M. Chirac replied that whilst he did not seek leadership of the Centre-Right, co-operation between the RPR and the other Parties within UDF is already emerging, although the Giscard Group was in disarray. John Lecannuet, President of the UDF had written to M. Chirac requesting close co-operation and a permanent Steering Group. Chirac welcomed this approach. (Later in the day the UDF leaders supported the RPR initiative to hold the leaders' conference in Paris next year and confirmed Chirac's position). I formed the view that Chirac would be leading the Right within the next two years.

3. Socialist Government's Future

Chirac and Lipkowski welcomed Mitterand's robust attitude on Defence and his policy towards the Soviet Government. The inclusion of Communists in his government, although deeply worrying, had not affected Mitterand's pro-Western stance. The Opposition were however concerned about the numbers of extreme Left-Wingers being introduced in the Administration, particularly by the Communist Minister of Transport. Mitterand had inflicted a major reverse in the Communist Party in the recent Presidential Election. Whilst he had included them in his government in order to undermine the Communist Party by committing them to any unpopularity that would effect the Socialist government, he was aware of the dangers. If a confrontation arose, Chirac considered that Mitterand would move to the Right for reasons of realism, if necessary dropping the Communists. This scenario in Chirac's view might occur within two years. Lipkowski considered that if it happened Mitterand might seek working co-operation with RPR.

4. During further talks with M. Pinton, Secretary General of the UDF, it became clear that both the Democratic and the Republic delegates had moved against Giscard's leadership. The Socialist government will fail. Chirac, with all his drawbacks, at the age of 48 and with a power base in Paris behind him is in a very strong position to pick up wide support throughout France when the inevitable disillusion with Mitterand takes place.

5. Chirac wished to visit the Prime Minister in London

He expressed anxiety for close and continuing relations with the Conservative Party and clearly would welcome the opportunity to visit London and talk with Mrs Thatcher. Lipkowski ~~has~~ ^{has had} very close links with Sadat and ~~sees~~ ^{meets} him regularly. He would welcome the opportunity for a short talk with Lord Carrington in London.

A.R. 10/10/81



SIR ANTHONY ROYLE K.C.M.G., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON S.W.1

8th October, 1981

9/12

Dear Prime Minister

I enclose a note of a meeting held in Paris last week with Jacques Chirac. I hope to have a chance to come and talk to you about the Party's external relations after the Party Conference. I will get in touch with Ian Gow in order to arrange a convenient time for you.

There are also one or two matters which I would like to report to you regarding the selection of Parliamentary Candidates.

Yours
Anthony

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1