



BF // Await Top copy (T/Message)

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT MITTERAND

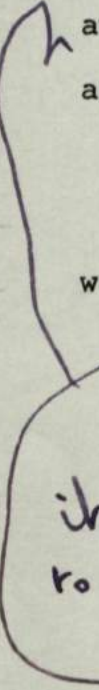
As you know the lengthy exploratory discussions between our two countries together with Germany, Italy and Spain on the possible collaboration over the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) are now approaching a conclusion.

I am concerned that whatever decisions are taken we should fully understand each others' position. If we can get the decision right it would be of major significance for European industrial co-operation.

I am looking forward to seeing M. Fabius next Wednesday and I would normally have discussed EFA with him. But in view of the possibility of Defence Ministerial meetings next Tuesday or Wednesday I would like to send ^{an proposal} Michael Heseltine to see you and your defence colleague at your convenience so that you may be aware of our views on the nature of the possible collaboration and the detail of our position ^{before decisions are reached.}

if you could find the time to see him,

If you feel this would be helpful to you ^{he} Michael could come within the next couple of days.



I wonder whether you would find it useful if I were to send Michael Heseltine to see you, so that you may be fully

For CDP on return

cc ffo

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TAVRS.

Approved by PM
Please send to
FCO for despatch despatched.
25/7/85.
TAVRS.