

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 May 1986

Prime Minister
You will be reluctant
to do this. There is no great
need. And we should certainly
do nothing until there is a
formal request.
Dear Charles, But if absolutely necessary, we
could probably find a couple of hours
on 18 June.

Possible Meeting with President Mitterrand

In the course of a call on President Mitterrand's Special Adviser, M Attali, on 15 May, Sir John Fretwell was told that the President would like to have a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister in either London or Paris before the European Council (26-27 June) at The Hague. There would be a number of important subjects coming up at the Council which should be discussed. Attali added that this was as yet only an informal suggestion: he would expect to have a formal proposal to make shortly, perhaps to Sir Robert Armstrong. Attali no doubt sees this as a way to try to keep Mitterrand rather than Chirac at the centre of the stage.

The Foreign Secretary is due to meet M Raimond in Paris on 10 or 23 June. We should wait to see if a formal approach from Mitterrand is in fact made. If it is, we recommend that the Prime Minister should respond as positively as her other commitments permit, particularly as it was not possible for her to meet President Mitterrand in Tokyo. We should suggest that any meeting should be held here rather than in France.

We may need to be careful about channels of communication. Depending how any formal approach from the French is made, it may be that we should respond through M Raimond, rather than through Mitterrand's office.

I am copying this letter to Michael Stark in the Cabinet Office.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

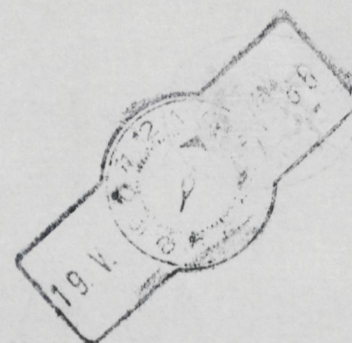
(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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Design and Construction Office

LONDON SW17 3AH



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CCPC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

~~DEA~~ Good.
We can
liberate it

29 May 1986

Time in the
diary

CDP
29/5

Dear Charles

Possible Meeting with President Mitterrand

Further to my letter of 19 May, we have heard from the Elysee that diary reasons now make it unlikely that President Mitterrand will be able to pursue his idea of a meeting with the Prime Minister before the European Council.

I am copying this letter to Michael Stark in Cabinet Office.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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PT 3

