



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

*Top Paper filed on
France, visits of Mitterrand,
Pt 3.*

London SW1A 2AH

10 May 1982

Dear John,

Visits of President Mitterrand and
M Mauroy

President Mitterrand

President Mitterrand is prepared to arrive at Northolt during the morning of Monday 17 May at a time convenient to the Prime Minister. I suggest arrival at 1100 in order to give sufficient time for talks before lunch. I imagine the Prime Minister would wish to go to Northolt to meet him. He plans to leave again at 1500. Apart from attending the lunch which the Prime Minister had planned to give for M Mauroy that day, President Mitterrand particularly wants to talk about the Versailles Economic Summit. He has undertaken to visit all the Heads of Government attending the Summit before it takes place. He has also said that he would like the Falkland Islands to be on the agenda. The Prime Minister will no doubt wish to raise certain Community issues, particularly the 30 May Mandate.

I should be grateful if you could ascertain whether the Prime Minister would be content to proceed on these lines.

M Mauroy

M Mauroy considers that it would be inappropriate for him to participate in the talks between the Prime Minister and the President on 17 May and now proposes to return direct to Paris from Edinburgh on 16 May. He would, however, welcome the opportunity for a longer discussion with the Prime Minister in Edinburgh than the quarter of an hour foreshadowed in the programme. I understand that the Prime Minister could be available for an hour of talks at Hopetoun House. These could start at 1900 before the two Prime Ministers join the Franco-British Council reception at 2000. M Mauroy would be quite happy to hold talks after the dinner, but I understand the Prime Minister intends to return to London that night.

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/ The agenda for the talks would remain as agreed for London with the omission of the Versailles Economic Summit and international issues. I attach a revised agenda. Although Community issues will be raised with President Mitterrand, they are also likely to feature in the meeting with M Mauroy. Briefing on other collaborative projects, such as the Channel fixed link, will also be provided.

Again I should be grateful if you could seek the Prime Minister's approval for these arrangements.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Muir Russell at the Scottish Office.

Yours ever,
F N Richards

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

M MAUROY'S TALKS WITH MRS THATCHER ON 15 MAY

AGENDA

1. Economic Issues:
 - UK and French domestic economies.

2. Community Issues:
 - 30 May Mandate.
 - Economic relations with Japan.

3. Bilateral Questions:
 - Aero-engine collaboration.
 - Fast breeder reactors.



FILE

RW

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 May, 1982

VISITS OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND AND M. MAUROY

Thank you for your letter of 10 May.

President Mitterrand

As I told you on the telephone, the Prime Minister has asked whether it is really necessary for her to go to the airport to meet the President. This is a working visit, unlike the formal bilaterals which we have had in the past. The Prime Minister will have spent much of Friday and Saturday in Scotland and expects to have to deal with urgent business in the first part of Monday morning. She hopes that the President will understand that, given her present preoccupation with the Falklands crisis, it is not easy for her to come to the airport. You were investigating whether a Cabinet Minister would be able to meet the President instead.

We envisage that the talks should begin at 1200 noon and be followed by a working lunch at 1300 hrs attended by President Mitterrand, a French Minister if the President wishes to bring one, M. Attali, the French Ambassador and the Private Secretary; on our side, the lunch would be attended by Mr Hurd, Sir Robert Armstrong, Sir John Fretwell and a Private Secretary.

The Prime Minister will wish to have an interpreter at both the talks and the lunch and I should be grateful if you could let me know what you have arranged in this respect.

The agenda suggested in your letter is acceptable.

I still await FCO comments on paragraph 5 of Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 10 May about the President's desire to offer to the Prime Minister and certain others membership of the Legion d'Honneur.

M. Mauroy

The Prime Minister agrees that the talks should begin at 1900 hrs before she and M. Mauroy join the Franco/British Council reception at 2000 hrs. We agreed earlier today that on our side Mr Hurd, David Gladstone and I would be present. You will doubtless let me know in due course who M. Mauroy will wish to have with him.

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The agenda which you propose is acceptable.

I am copying this letter to Muir Russell (Scottish Office)
and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

K. J. COLES

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Francis Richards, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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