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OF 281601Z APRIL 88  
INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS, BONN

POSSIBLE VISIT TO LONDON BY FORMER PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING

SUMMARY

1. GISCARD HAS ASKED FOR A MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER END MAY - EARLY JUNE ON THE SUBJECT OF EUROPEAN MONETARY CONSTRUCTION. RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE, IF DIARIES FIT: GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK MORE GENERALLY TO GISCARD ON THE FRENCH SCENE AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

*No point in talking to me about this.*

DETIAL

2. SAUVET, GISCARD'S DIRECTEUR DE CABINET, CONFIRMED TODAY (LLEWELLYN SMITH'S LETTER OF 19 APRIL TO DAIN, WED) THAT GISCARD WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE END OF MAY OR EARLY JUNE IN HIS CAPACITY AS JOINT CHAIRMAN (WITH SCHMIDT) OF THE COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION. SAUVET SAID THAT GISCARD'S AIM WOULD BE TO REPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE IN GOOD TIME BEFORE THE END-JUNE HANOVER EUROPEAN COUNCIL, AT WHICH MONETARY CONSTRUCTION WAS LIKELY TO BE ON THE AGENDA. SAUVET SAID THAT GISCARD'S DIARY WAS FILLING UP, BUT THAT HE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO FIT IN WITH WHATEVER DATES WOULD SUIT THE PRIME MINISTER. HE CONFIRMED THAT ON THIS OCCASION GISCARD WAS THINKING OF A CALL ONLY ON THE PRIME MINISTER.

*Let's fill in the*

3. I HOPE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER MAY BE ABLE TO SEE GISCARD. WHETHER OR NOT MONETARY CONSTRUCTION IS ON THE AGENDA AT HANOVER, IT SEEMS SET TO REMAIN A LIVE TOPIC IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. GISCARD IS A POWERFUL, BUT NOT ALWAYS REALISTIC ADVOCATE OF IT, AND IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF HE WERE TO HEAR OUR VIEWS FIRST HAND. AND IF NOT MORE IMPORTANT, A MEETING AT THE END OF MAY/BEGINNING OF JUNE WOULD PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE POST ELECTIORAL POLITICAL SCENE IN FRANCE, IN WHICH HE MAY HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY.

FCO PLEASE ADVANCE BRAITHWAITE, KERR, DAIN, FCO. LITTLER, TREASURY AND LOEHNIS, BANK OF ENGLAND.

FERGUSSON

*Please look at the diary*

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177

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PAGE 1

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