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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

cc Amanda
Pe
Detectives
D/C

FILE
PM3AAV

16 June 1989

BICENTENARY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Thank you for your letter of 15 June about the arrangements for the Bicentenary of the French Revolution. I will take your points in order.

Trocadero Ceremony

The Prime Minister agrees that we should negotiate a joint position with President Bush: either both of them attend or both stay away. I should be grateful if you could send early instructions to Antony Acland on this point. If the decision is to attend, the Prime Minister is prepared to leave earlier from London.

Bilaterals

I am confident the Prime Minister will agree to the bilaterals proposed in your letter for the afternoon of 14 July in the order of priority: President Bush, Mr. Uno, President Aquino, President Salinas and President Mubarak. I should be grateful if you could make the necessary arrangements.

Mr. Thatcher will not accompany the Prime Minister to Paris.

We discussed on the telephone yesterday the possibility of using a BAe 146 to take the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, Chancellor and their immediate staff to Paris on the morning of 13 July. I should be grateful if Protocol Department could pursue this.

C. D. POWELL

J.S. Wall, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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15 June 1989

Dear Charles,

Bicentenary of the French Revolution

Thank you for your letter of 12 June confirming that the Prime Minister will arrive in Paris in time for the Elysée lunch on 13 July.

I attach the latest programme which is still subject to fine tuning

Trocadero Ceremony

The Trocadero ceremony, at 1200 hrs on 13 July, will involve a group photograph of President Mitterrand with Heads of State/Government, a reading of the 1789 Declaration of Human Rights in several languages, various quotations from French writers evoking the Revolution and a musical programme ending with Berlioz's Marseillaise. Sir Ewen Fergusson advises that if the Prime Minister were the only Economic Summit leader not to attend, her absence would be conspicuous (all other Summit leaders except President Bush have confirmed their attendance). The Prime Minister would need to arrive at Orly by about 1030 hrs local time so as to allow for placement with due dignity before the ceremony. On the other hand, President Bush is unlikely to arrive from Budapest before the Elysée lunch if he knows that this is also the Prime Minister's intention. If the Prime Minister does not wish to attend the ceremony, you or Sir Antony Acland would need to have a word with John Sununu to confirm this. In these circumstances we believe that French honour will be satisfied if the Prime Minister attends the Elysée lunch. On this basis the Prime Minister would need to leave London at 0950 hrs arriving at Orly by 1215 hrs.

North South Initiative

It is possible that either at the Trocadero Ceremony or, more likely, at one of the celebratory meals, President Mitterrand may launch some sort of "North/South" initiative, as Mr Wicks reported in his minute to the Prime Minister after the Sherpa meeting at the beginning of June. We are consulting Sir Ewen Fergusson on how best to deal with this.

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Bilaterals

The Prime Minister has agreed to a working breakfast with Mr Gandhi on 14 July at the British Embassy (your letter of 16 April). We suggest this take place at 0800-0900 hrs. We have also been approached by the Philippines and Mexico seeking meetings for Presidents Aquino and Salinas. A list of the Heads of State or Government (including Economic Summit participants) invited to the Bicentenary celebrations is annexed. More bids for bilaterals with the Prime Minister may come in at the eleventh hour.

The Foreign Secretary believes that it would be particularly useful for the Prime Minister to see President Bush to compare notes before the Summit (in particular on the handling of any ambitious French initiatives that may surface at the last moment) and to meet Mrs Aquino, President Salinas and Mr Uno. If time could be found, a short bilateral with Mr Mubarak would also be valuable.

Bob Peirce's letter of 17 May explained that a longstanding invitation to Mrs Aquino to visit the UK was issued shortly after she became President and repeated when the Foreign Secretary visited Manila last May. Because of her other commitments, the Prime Minister asked that this invitation should not be actively pursued for 1989. The Philippines have a crucial role to play in our pursuit of a regional holding centre for Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong. They have now offered to have one in their country. A meeting in Paris with Mrs Aquino would underline our support for the new democracy in the Philippines and would enable us to impress on Mrs Aquino the gravity of the situation in Hong Kong and to thank her for Philippine cooperation.

Mexico is the UK's second export market in Latin America. Since Salinas took office in December 1988 in difficult economic and political circumstances he has shown himself a tough and decisive leader. He has cracked down on corruption and drugs trafficking and pursued generally responsible and sensible economic policies, including extensive privatisation. Negotiations on Mexico's debt are at a critical stage. The Americans hope that Salinas will succeed and that Mexico will be the first success for the Brady initiative.

Half an hour would be sufficient with Mr Uno. It would be useful to maintain momentum over structural reforms of the Japanese economy and the Tokyo Stock Exchange issue as well as comparing notes on the Economic Summit and establishing personal relations with the new Japanese Prime Minister.

A meeting with Mr Mubarak would make up for having missed him in April. Egypt has returned to the Arab League and has made further and helpful efforts to support the Middle East peace process.

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Philippine Foreign Minister Manglapus will call on the Foreign Secretary at 1145 hrs on 16 June. It would be helpful to have the Prime Minister's views on bilaterals before then if at all possible.

Will Mr Thatcher accompany the Prime Minister to Paris?

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan and Nigel Wicks (HM Treasury).

Jan.
Steph

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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FRENCH BICENTENARY: PROGRAMME

- 12 July Arrival of Heads of State and Government:
ad hoc bilaterals with Mitterrand.
- 13 July
- Morning Further arrivals and Bilateral meetings
as desired
- 1200 Ceremony at the Trocadero commemorating the
Revolution and the Declaration of the Rights of
Man, presided over by President Mitterrand
- 1315 Lunch for Heads of State/Government given
by President Mitterrand at the Elysée
- Separate lunch for accompanying Ministers
given by M Lang (Minister for Culture, Major Works
and the Bicentenary) at the Palais Royal
- Afternoon Free for bilateral meetings
- 1900 Inauguration of the Opera de la Bastille
- 2100 Gala dinner given by President and Mme
Mitterrand at the Musée d'Orsay for
Heads of State/Government and their spouses.
- Separate dinner for accompanying
Ministers hosted by Foreign Minister Dumas
- 14 July
- [Prime Minister breakfasts with Mr Gandhi]
- 0940 Leave Embassy for
- 1000-1145 Military parade on Champs Elysée
- 1200 approx Garden party hosted by President Mitterrand at
Ministry of Foreign Affairs; followed by
- 1345 approx Lunch hosted by President Mitterrand at the Hotel
de Lassay for Heads of State/Government and their
spouses.
- Separate lunch for accompanying Ministers hosted
by M Dumas
- 1530 Official Bicentenary programme ends and
Economic Summit begins
- 2230-2330 "La Marseillaise" show at the Place de la
Concorde.]



FRENCH BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS: PARTICIPATING HEADS OF
STATE OR GOVERNMENT

Africa

Cameroon
Cote D'Ivoire
Djibouti
Egypt
Gabon

Madagascar
Uganda
Senegal
Togo
Zimbabwe

Americas

Brazil
Canada
USA

Mexico
Uruguay
Venezuela

Asia

India
Japan

Pakistan
Philippines

Europe

UK
Ireland
FRG

Greece
Portugal
Italy

Others

UN Secretary General
EC President

Praxis Law. →
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