

France

Ref. A082/0597

MR INGHAM

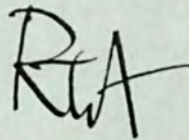
c Mr Coles

You were approached in September by Monsieur Nicolas Traube with a request to be allowed to film at 10 Downing Street or interview the Prime Minister for a television series on the residences of the world's Heads of State or Government. Mr Kydd wrote to Monsieur Traube on 15 November, regretting that it was not possible to meet this request.

2. When I was in Paris some days ago for a meeting of Personal Representatives, I was approached on this subject by the French President's Personal Representative, Monsieur Attali. It appears that his wife is the presenter of this series of programmes. He asked whether it would be possible to reconsider the request that had been made. I said that I knew that we were obliged to be very restrictive about access to 10 Downing Street, but I would make enquiries.

3. Monsieur Attali did not mention the idea of an interview with the Prime Minister; it was simply a matter of filming inside the house.

4. I know indeed that it is the custom to be very restrictive about this. I can only say that, if it were possible to make an exception in this case, it would be very good for my relations with Monsieur Attali and - what is much more important - good for the Prime Minister's relations with President Mitterrand.



ROBERT ARMSTRONG

21 December 1982