

CONFIDENTIAL

FRANCE  
private



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 January 1984

Dear John,

Visit of the Prime Minister to Paris: 23 January 1984

The announcement of the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to Paris is bound to give rise to a great deal of interest among our partners and to speculation about its purpose.

We realise that the Prime Minister wishes to minimise press and other comment on the visit, and therefore suggest that we should avoid giving any detailed briefing to our partners after the meeting. However, to say nothing at all to them would be to feed speculation. We therefore consider it desirable to send instructions to posts giving them a line to take if asked. I enclose a draft telegram which has been seen by Mr Rifkind, but not by Sir Geoffrey Howe who is in Stockholm.

Subject to your agreement, we would propose to send the telegram to coincide with the press announcement of the visit tomorrow.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

20 January 1984

Visit of the Prime Minister to Paris

As I told you on the telephone this morning, I agree that the telegram which you propose to despatch to Athens, other EC posts and Stockholm may issue, subject to your inserting the revised text for today's press announcement which has been conveyed to you separately.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(JOHN COLES)

Peter Ricketts Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
	CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE

ZCZC  
 GRS  
 CLASS  
 CAVEATS  
 DESKBY  
 FM FCO  
 PRE/ADD  
 TEL NO

1 ZCZC  
 2 GRS  
 3 CONFIDENTIAL  
 4  
 5  
 6 FM FCO  
 7 TO IMMEDIATE ATHENS  
 8 TELEGRAM NUMBER  
 9 AND TO IMMEDIATE OTHER EC POSTS, STOCKHOLM (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)  
 10 VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO PARIS: 23 JANUARY  
 11 1. The Prime Minister will be visiting Paris for lunch and  
 12 talks with President Mitterrand on Monday 23 January. The  
 13 following announcement will be made by No 10 at 1600Z on Friday  
 14 20 January: BEGINS: The Prime Minister has accepted an  
 15 invitation to visit Paris for talks with the President of France  
 16 on 23 January. She will leave London ~~early~~ that morning and  
 17 return in the afternoon. ENDS.  
 18 LINE TO TAKE  
 19 2. If asked about the meeting you should say that its purpose  
 20 is to discuss matters of common concern, particularly European  
 21 Community questions, now that France has assumed the Presidency.  
 22 You should say that we understand that the French Government  
 23 proposes to hold a number of bilateral contacts in the weeks  
 24 before the March European Council. This particular meeting  
 25 arose from a discussion which the Prime Minister and President

///  
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 /

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword Mitterrand
File number	Dept Private Office	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) P F Ricketts		
Telephone number 233 4641		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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<<<< 1 <<<<

2 Mitterrand had during the Athens European Council. They agreed  
 3 then that it would be useful to meet soon after the start of  
 4 the French Presidency to discuss the principal issues in the  
 5 negotiations.

6 3. If any of your contacts expresses concern that this meeting  
 7 is an attempt to reach bilateral agreement behind the backs of  
 8 other Member States, you should make clear our view that while  
 9 there is clearly a place for bilateral contacts with our  
 10 Community partners at this stage, we regard such contacts as  
 11 complementary to and not a substitute for the normal process of  
 12 discussion and decision in the appropriate Community  
 13 institutions (see my telno 8 to Athens). We are anxious therefore  
 14 that the negotiations should proceed without further delay in  
 15 the Council with the objective of ensuring that Heads of  
 16 Government can take decisions at the March European Council.

17 BACKGROUND

18 4. At their breakfast meeting in Athens on 6 December, the  
 19 President and the Prime Minister agreed that the post-Stuttgart  
 20 negotiations should not be allowed to turn into an Anglo-French  
 21 bilateral row. They agreed that an early meeting would be  
 22 useful. The Prime Minister's visit on 23 January follows  
 23 directly from that conversation.

24 5. If the visit is to contribute effectively to the progress  
 25 of the negotiations it will be desirable to avoid a great deal  
 26 of public comment about it. We do not therefore propose to  
 27 give any detailed briefing to our partners (who do not do so  
 28 when they have similar bilateral meetings) after the meeting.  
 29 We shall telegraph any on the record press briefing or  
 30 statements to Parliament.

/// 31

// 32 HOWE

/ 33 NNNN

34

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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## "ATHENS PACKAGE"

### Procedure

How will Presidency handle?

Do you need agreement in March?

Relevance of European elections?

### Substance: General

We want agreement.

Committed to Community - want to end growing chaos (CAP) and lay sound basis for future development.

Like you, not attracted by supra-national approach.

Anglo/French differences not as great as others pretend.

Will give you frank account of my needs.

### Control of Expenditure

Strict financial guideline - for all expenditure.

Incorporated in budgetary procedures.

Agricultural spending to grow markedly less rapidly than EC resources.

### CAP

Recognise crucial for you.

Not trying to undermine CAP but to correct its defects.

Need:

rigorous price policy

effective guarantee thresholds

better balance in milk market

Opposed to Oils and Fats Tax (Germany, Denmark, Netherlands also). If important to you, could look again at cereal substitutes problem- .

Budget

Revised system must:-

be lasting

limit net contributions (% of GDP)

correct on revenue side (next year's VAT)

apply to 1984 and later.

System for 6 does not work for 10 (or 12).

Need systematic solution.

Under our safety net proposal, we shall still be substantial contributor.

Will increase France's net contribution - but can ensure you not put in unacceptable situation.

Own Resources

Other member states want to change 1970. decision. So do we (for different reasons). Cannot contemplate increase unless essential needs met - but then could.

/ New Policies

New Policies

Much common ground between us.

We have clear ideas for future development.

1983 Refund

Need implementation by March of Stuttgart agreement.

Won't help to link to overall negotiation.

1982 Refund

EC must meet obligation.. Taken up with Commission

MISCELLANEOUS

Economic Summit

How does he view?

No-passport excursions

Hope you will not stop.

1 million visitors will not go to Europe if have to get a passport. Spend £20 to £30 million in Channel ports.

A320 (defensive)

Considering launch aid urgently.

Hope to decide in early February.

Skynet (defensive)

Favoured Shuttle (as against Ariana) on financial, technical and practical grounds.



EAST/WEST RELATIONS

Reagan's speech.

Stockholm.

Visit to Hungary.

Will he visit Moscow?

Broaden E/W agenda.

Prospects for START, INF and MBFR.

MIDDLE EAST

Arab/Israel

What can be done in US election year?

Arafat/Hussein talks.

Encourage PLO to be constructive.

Importance of Jordan.

Lebanon

Regret recent attacks on French Embassy  
and MNF contingent.

Early replacement of MNF by UN.

Assessment of Syrian position.