

5-6 in March

Prime Minister

You will recall that Hugh Thomas sent you a note about him recently.

Agree to

Yes see him?

CDP 7/2.

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 109 OF 6 FEBRUARY

BARRE: REQUEST FOR CALL ON PRIME MINISTER

1. THE FORMER FRENCH PRIME MINISTER, RAYMOND BARRE, HAS ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE COURSE OF ONE OF THE TWO VISITS HE PLANS TO MAKE TO THE UK IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. IDEALLY, HE WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON THE AFTERNOON OF 7 MARCH; THE ALTERNATIVE DATES WOULD BE 15 OR 16 APRIL, WITH A PREFERENCE FOR THE AFTERNOON OF 16 APRIL.

2. BARRE'S STANDING IN FRANCE IS HIGH: ACCORDING TO THE OPINION POLLS, HE IS CURRENTLY THE MOST POPULAR OPPOSITION POLITICIAN IN FRANCE HE IS ONE OF THE THREE LEADING CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN 1988. HE IS AN AVOWED ADMIRER OF MRS THATCHER'S ECONOMIC POLICIES.

3. IN A LETTER TO BARRE DATED 13 NOV 1984, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A MEETING WOULD BE POSSIBLE NEXT TIME HE WAS IN THE UK. I RECOMMEND THAT SHE SHOULD AGREE TO SEE HIM IF HER DIARY PERMITS.

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