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Conservative Party International Office

Conservative Research Department

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Chairman of International Office: Sir Anthony Royle KCMG MP

Director of Research Department: Peter Cropper

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2 March 1982

Visit of Monsieur Chirac on 3rd March 1982

The Party Chairman has invited Monsieur Jacques Chirac, Leader of the Rassemblement pour la République and Mayor of Paris, to visit London on 3rd March for a meeting with the Prime Minister and discussions with senior members of the Party on inter-party questions and matters of mutual interest.

Monsieur Chirac will be accompanied by:-

Monsieur Jean-Pierre Delalande, MP,
responsible for international affairs
on behalf of the RPR

Monsieur Bernard Billaud, Director of
Monsieur Chirac's private office

Monsieur Jean Clidière, OBE, Chef de Protocole

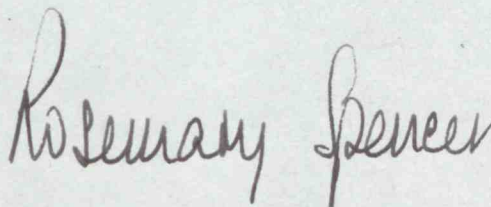
Monsieur Henri Cuq, Private Secretary

He will also be bringing five journalists with him.

The Prime Minister will entertain Monsieur Chirac to lunch, and the Party Chairman will offer a dinner in his honour. Details of the dinner and the programme are attached, together with a briefing note

Monsieur Chirac will be staying at the Inter-Continental Hotel, and before returning home on 4th March, he will pay a short visit in his capacity as Mayor of Paris on the Lord Mayor of London.

Monsieur Chirac speaks English.



Rosemary Spencer (Miss)

To: see distribution

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Programme for the visit to London of
Monsieur Jacques Chirac, Leader of the
Rassemblement pour la République and
Mayor of Paris, on 3rd-4th March 1982

Wednesday, 3rd March

10.30 Arrive Heathrow, Terminal 1, Flight AF 810,
de Havilland Suite

Met by: Monsieur Alain Grenier,
Minister, French Embassy

Mr. Scott Hamilton,
Head of Conservative Party International Office

Miss Rosemary Spencer

12.15 Arrive 10 Downing Street for talks with the
Prime Minister

1.00 Working lunch with the Prime Minister
Monsieur Delalande and Monsieur Billaud are also
invited.

5.30 Discussion of inter-party questions with
Sir Anthony Royle, MP, Chairman of the International
Office, and Mr. Scott Hamilton, Head of the
International Office, at Sir Anthony Royle's flat,
47 Cadogan Place, London SW1 (tel. 235.2864).
Monsieur Delalande will also be present.

7.45 for Dinner offered by the Party Chairman,
8.0 Byron Room, Inter-Continental Hotel, Hyde Park Corner
(Grand Ballroom entrance)

Thursday, 4th March

With the Lord Mayor of London

Lunch offered by the Prime Minister
for Monsieur Jacques Chirac, on
3rd March 1982 at 10 Downing Street

The Prime Minister

The Rt Hon Humphrey Atkins, MP, The Lord Privy Seal

Sir Henry Plumb, MEP, Chairman of the European Democratic
Group in the European Parliament

Sir Anthony Royle, KCMG, MP, Chairman of the Conservative
Party International Office
Vice-Chairman of the Party

The Rt Hon Edward du Cann, MP, Chairman of the 1922
Committee

Mr. Ray Whitney, OBE, MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary
Party Foreign & Commonwealth
Affairs Committee

Mr. George Gardiner, MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary
Party European Affairs Committee

Mr. Ian Gow, MP, Parliamentary Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister

Mr. John Coles, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

Monsieur Chirac

Monsieur Billaud

Monsieur Delalande

Dinner in honour of Monsieur Jacques Chirac, Wednesday 3 March

Byron Room, Inter-Continental Hotel, Hyde Park Corner,

7.45 for 8.0 p.m.

Host: The Rt. Hon. Cecil Parkinson, MP, Chairman
The Rt. Hon. Baroness Young, Leader of the House of Lords
The Rt. Hon. John Nott, MP, Secretary of State for Defence
The Rt. Hon. Nigel Lawson, MP, Secretary of State
for Energy
The Rt. Hon. David Howell, MP, Secretary of State
for Transport
The Rt. Hon. Baroness Elles, Vice-President of the
European Parliament
Sir Anthony Royle, KCMG, MP, Vice-Chairman of the
Conservative Party, Chairman of
the International Office
The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, CBE, MP, Minister of State
at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Mr. Michael Spicer, MP, Vice-Chairman of the
Conservative Party
Mr. Timothy Renton, MP, Chairman of the Conservative
Parliamentary Employment Committee
Mr. Scott Hamilton, Head of the International Office
Miss Rosemary Spencer, member of the International Office

Monsieur Jacques Chirac MP

Monsieur Jean-Pierre Delalande, MP

Monsieur Bernard Billaud

Monsieur Jean Clidière

M. Chirac's Political Prospects

1. In last year's Presidential election M. Chirac obtained 18% of the First Round vote. Since then the French electorate has begun increasingly to look to him rather than to M. Giscard or to any other personality from the former governing majority to lead the combat against the French Government. Within the RPR M. Chirac's position is unchallenged. He was re-elected leader with 99.15% of the vote at the Party Conference in January 1982, and a recent poll gave him 47% as against 20% for M. Giscard to lead the centre-right.

General Political

2. Officials in about half of France's 3,629 cantons face re-election on 14th and 21st March, which will be the first major test of opinion since last year's general election. M. Giscard has just announced his candidature in his own district.

In January 1982 four by-elections went against the Government. Most noteworthy was M. Alain Peyrefitte, a former Minister of Justice, who lost his seat at Provins by 186 votes in 1981 and won it back by his best ever majority of 6,400.

Community Affairs

3. M. Chirac and his party are extremely critical of British policy towards the European Community. He accuses the British Government of attempting to transform the European Community into a free trade area. Most recently the Gaullists have attacked what they see as British obstructionism over CAP price-fixing. Rather than allow European farmers to be held hostage by the British Government, the RPR has urged that the French Government should leave the negotiating table at Brussels.

/East/West Relations

East/West Relations

4. M. Chirac has called on the French Government to show greater firmness in its attitude towards the Soviet Union. To mark France's disapproval of Soviet policy towards Poland he has argued that France should boycott the Madrid CSCE Meeting until the Soviet Union fulfils its obligations under the CSCE Final Act. France should also review its economic and technological agreements with the Soviet Union. The recent Franco/Soviet gas contract should not have been signed.

Defence

5. In recent months, the Gaullists, under M. Chirac's impulse, have begun to make more favourable noises than in the past about the idea of closer defence cooperation among the major European powers. At the moment neither M. Chirac nor his party appear to have any clear idea where this might lead. In private M. Chirac merely speaks of the need for closer defence links between France, the UK and the FRG, with the inclusion of Italy in respect of the Mediterranean. His ideas are very imprecise. His message appears to be that the European Community is dead. The renaissance of an independent Europe is not going to come about by way of economic integration, and the way forward is through cooperation in the field of defence.

Economic Policy

6. M. Chirac advocates a reduction in the levels of taxation and of government expenditure to promote faster economic growth and thereby absorb unemployment. State intervention in the economy should also be restricted. The Gaullists have been in the forefront of the Opposition's campaign against the

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Government's nationalisation programme. M. Chirac favours close economic relations between France and the Third World to provide an outlet for French exports.

The Rassemblement pour la République

7. Membership figures for the three main political parties are:-

Communists	710,000
RPR	600,000
Socialists	250,000

RPR seats in the National Assembly fell from 153 to 80 at last year's general election. A certain hardening of attitudes is becoming apparent, against which M. Chirac is emphasising the need for reasonableness and tolerance. He refutes accusations of being pulled to the right: "I'm a republican and legalist before all else, which is in the purest Gaullist tradition". The recent Party Conference was notable for its emphasis on rejuvenation and new ideas, including the use of one of France's foremost marketing experts.

The RPR and the European Democrat Union

8. The RPR was a founding member of the EDU. Between 1978-1981, however, the Party played only a very small role in the work of the organisation. Indeed, it failed to pay its annual subscription for two consecutive years.

With the election of a socialist government in France last summer, there was a sudden revival of interest in the EDU. M. Jacques Chirac met Dr. Alois Mock, Mr. Alistair McAlpine and Sir Anthony Royle last September and reaffirmed the RPR's support for the EDU. M. Chirac also agreed to pay all the Party's outstanding debts.

Since then, the RPR has played an active part in both the EDU Steering Committee and its working parties. It will also be hosting the next EDU Party Leaders' Meeting next July in Paris.

M. Chirac as Mayor of Paris

9. M. Chirac enjoys being Mayor of Paris. "Running Paris is my great passion - a job where you get immediate results that people feel. And it provides an excellent national and international platform." He faces re-election in 1983.

RS/CDB

2nd March, 1982

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Monsieur Jacques Chirac

Born 1932. Married with two children. Speaks English.
Leader of the Rassemblement pour la République. Deputy for the Corrèze since 1967.

1967 - 1974	Junior Minister in various Ministries
1968 - 1971	Junior Minister in the Ministry of Economy and Finance under M. Giscard d'Estaing
1974 March	Minister of the Interior
May 1974	Appointed Giscard's first Prime Minister
1976	Resigned. Re-elected Deputy for the Corrèze in a by-election
1974	Secretary-General of the Gaullist Party (then UDR) Later Honorary Secretary-General
1976	President of the newly-constituted Rassemblement pour la République
1977	Mayor of Paris
1979-80	Member of the European Parliament
1979	President of the International Association of Mayors of French-speaking capital and large cities.

Monsieur Jean-Pierre Delalande

Born 1945. Married with 3 children. Speaks some English.

1971-2	Cultural Attaché, French Embassy in Zambia
1972-3	Government Spokesman, Cabinet Office
1973-4	Worked on overseas co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1978-81	Deputy for the Oise Valley (north-west of Paris) Vice-President of the RPR Parliamentary Party
Since 1978	Regional Counsellor for the Ile de France Rapporteur of the Committee studying a draft bill on worker participation
1982	Responsible for international relations of the RPR.

