

APS

cc: { Mr Manning (for 3-4)  
      Mr Fry

LUNCH BY LES AMIS DE LA REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE FOR PIERRE JOXE

1. I stood in for the Ambassador at the lunch to which he was invited today given by Les Amis de la République Française, at which the guest speaker was the Minister of the Interior, Pierre Joxe. In case you or your successor find it useful to have some guidance about this outfit, I shall record a few details. Their stock handout is attached below.
2. Les Amis have existed since the end of World War II. Although they have some quite illustrious people on their list of members and Central Committee, the cross-section who turned up to this event were all pretty elderly. In fact, I thought that the event was surprisingly ill-attended for such a prestigious speaker (maximum of 50). Nevertheless, several lesser Ambassadors were there (including the egregious Greek) and representatives of other Embassies, as well as sundry journalists.
3. Joxe himself spoke well. He started by dealing briefly with decentralisation («it will take several local elections for this to enter into the reflexes of the French people»). He then turned to the police and having made much of the reduction in the figures for crime (the figures for the first quarter of 1985 had just appeared and he was about to announce that they would show a further overall reduction of the order of 4.5%), he explained in some detail the areas in which he was modernising the French police. An area which he particularly stressed was the technological section where he admitted that France was at present well behind the UK and the FRG. He hardly imagined that the Senate would hold up his draft law seeking a dramatic increase in the budget for the police force.....
4. One surprise at the end was the emphasis he put on the importance of civil defence. He said that this was a neglected area in France which was well behind several of its neighbours. In 5 or 10 years time, the French would wake up to this. He wanted to make a start at once.

/Journalists

Journalists I talked to said that this was the first time they had ever heard a French Minister of the Interior talk about the subject in public. One, more cynical, wondered whether it was not to take the wind out of the sails of the Opposition and their friends inside the armed forces who were criticising the government in the area of conventional defence.

*Christopher MacRae*

19 November 1985

A C D S MacRae

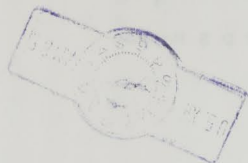
FRANCE

VISIT OF  
PRES MITTERRAND

PT 5

Il est à noter que lors de sa visite en France, le Président de la République a été reçu à l'Élysée par le Président de la République et par le Premier ministre. Il a également rencontré le Président du Conseil des ministres et le Président du Sénat. Ces rencontres ont permis d'établir un dialogue constructif et de renforcer la coopération entre les deux pays.

10-11-1981



## POINTS FOR CABINET

### A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

- Agreed to keep to timetable for Channel Fixed Link and to meet in France in late January to announce a decision - assuming projects meet qualifications.
- Fairly similar views on East/West relations and Gorbachev. He stressed Gorbachev's determination to change the Soviet Union's image without changing the system. Mitterrand expects Strategic Defence to come one day, but not too soon. Expects to see move towards Soviet/Israeli diplomatic relations and claimed to detect some flexibility in Soviet position on Afghanistan. Clearly a risk that French will desert us this year on Falklands. On European Community affairs and the Intergovernmental Conference, you played your cards close to your chest. He seemed uncertain what cards he had been dealt. But his general theme was that, while France could agree to more than the UK could, he was resigned to settle for considerably less than his maximum. He was also keen to get a settlement in Luxembourg, so that the issues do not get caught up in the French elections. But France will be difficult over monetary issues; and is all too likely to gang up again with Germany at the last minute and come up with something unacceptable to us.
- You also saw M. Santer of Luxembourg. Obviously trying hard and running business efficiently. But you left him with the clear message that his idea of a minimal outcome to the European Council was still well above your minimum: and a lot of work remained to be done to scale down proposals to a level which would interest us.
- On Reagan/Gorbachev, you hope to see Mr. McFarlane on Saturday for a full debriefing. *(Clear from this morning's ceremony that both sides regard it as a success. We should support*