

ADVANCE COPY

PS/NO 10

[PS/MR RIDLEY]

ZCZC

PCLNAN 0138

CONFIDENTIAL

OO FCOLN

FM PARIS TO FCOLN

101651Z JAN

GRS 120

CONFIDENTIAL

FM PARIS

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 30

OF 101651Z JANUARY 86

CFL : PROGRAMME FOR PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO LILLE ON 20 JANUARY :  
TELECON TIMMS/DARROCH

1. WE EXPLAINED TO THE ELYSEE THAT MR RIDLEY WILL NEED TO LEAVE LILLE IN TIME TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE COMMONS, AND ASKED THEM WHAT WAS THE EARLIEST TIME AT WHICH THE OFFICIAL LUNCH MIGHT END. THE ELYSEE CONFIRMED THAT THE LUNCH WAS NOT EXPECTED TO END BEFORE 1430. TAKE-OFF FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY WAS THEREFORE PLANNED FOR 1445.

2. IN VIEW OF THE EVIDENT DIFFICULTIES OF BRINGING FORWARD WHAT WILL BE FOR MITTERRAND AN IMPORTANT AND PRESTIGIOUS LUNCH, THE SIMPLEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR MR RIDLEY TO DEPART FOR LONDON IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE HOTEL DE VILLE (WHICH SHOULD FINISH BY 1300). WE UNDERSTAND AN AIR TAXI HIRED FROM A LILLE COMPANY WOULD CHARGE ABOUT 8700 FRANCS, EXACT PRICE DEPENDING ON WHICH AIRPORT WAS USED FOR ARRIVAL IN LONDON. ALTERNATIVELY, MR RIDLEY'S OFFICE MAY WISH TO EXPLORE THE USE OF THE RAF OR OF A UK BASED AIR TAXI FIRM.

3. FCO PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO PS/NO10 AND PS/MR RIDLEY.

FRETWELL

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