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PCLNAN 0178
RESTRICTED
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FM PARIS TO FCOLN
141149Z JAN
GRS 140



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IMMEDIATE

Ps/N^o 10 J.S.
X1 APS/mr. ridley

RESTRICTED
FM PARIS
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 42
OF 141149Z JANUARY 86

ADVANCE COPY

PERSONAL FROM ~~FIFOOT~~
CFL : TREATY SIGNATURE

1. DURING YESTERDAY'S MEETING OF THE ANGLO-FRENCH TREATY GROUP THE FRENCH TOLD US THAT THERE WAS A "CONSTITUTIONAL" IMPEDIMENT TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND ACTUALLY SIGNING A TREATY. THEY PROPOSED THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS SHOULD SIGN "IN THE PRESENCE OF" THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT MITTERRAND (THOUGH THERE WAS ALSO A PASSING REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF M. FABIUS SIGNING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER). THEY STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT MITTERRAND REMAINED COMMITTED TO ATTENDING THE SIGNING CEREMONY.
2. WE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THIS POINT HAD ONLY NOW BEEN BROUGHT UP, BUT UNDERTOOK TO REPORT IT. WE SHALL IN CASE CHECK ON THE VALIDITY OF THE FRENCH VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S ROLE IN THIS REGARD. WE COMMENTED SIMPLY THAT WE MIGHT NEED TO CONSIDER FURTHER ON OUR SIDE WHO WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE SIGNATORY.
3. FCO PLEASE PASS TO NO10 AND APS/MR RIDLEY.

FRETWELL

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