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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 April 1986

Dear Colin,

**THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE
PRIME MINISTER OF FRANCE**

M. Chirac telephone the Prime Minister this morning to say how very sorry indeed he was about the fate of the two British hostages in Lebanon. He wished to express his solidarity and support. Speaking very deliberately, M. Chirac went on to say that he wanted the Prime Minister to know that he supported completely her actions over Libya, even if France had not taken the same position. He repeated his regrets about the hostages. The Prime Minister thanked M. Chirac for his sympathy.

The Prime Minister recalled that it was the first time that she had spoken to M. Chirac since his election. She should therefore congratulate him on his considerable triumph. She was looking forward to seeing him at Chequers next week. There was a great deal to talk about, including Community affairs. There were likely to be particular difficulties with the CAP. She understood that M. Chirac had just seen Chancellor Kohl in Bonn.

M. Chirac said he was looking forward to his discussion with the Prime Minister next week. He agreed that there were a lot of Community matters which needed to be gone over between them.

I am copying this letter to Michael Stark in the Cabinet Office.

*Yours sincerely
Charles Powell*

CHARLES POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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PRIME MINISTER

M. CHIRAC

M. Chirac tried to telephone you late this afternoon. I explained that you were very difficult to get hold of. He will telephone to speak to you at Chequers tomorrow morning between 1000 and 1100.

I think his purpose in telephoning is to express sympathy over the fate of the hostages.

You will recall that you have invited him to lunch at Chequers next Saturday.

Apart from Libya, another subject which may be particularly on his mind is the devaluation of the Green Franc, though I rather doubt he will raise this with you. He has just returned from Bonn where he has had a troublesome discussion with Chancellor Kohl on the subject.

C.P.

CHARLES POWELL

18 April 1986

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