



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

7 October 1986

From the Private Secretary

VISIT OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

You have seen the exchange of minutes between Sir Robert Armstrong and me about President Mitterrand's wish to visit London shortly for an informal talk about the forthcoming European Council.

M. Attali informed Sir Robert this morning that, of the dates offered by the Prime Minister, 16 October would suit him best. I have subsequently spoken to M. Musitelli in the Elysée to discuss arrangements. We agreed in principle that President Mitterrand would arrive at Heathrow at 1200 hours. I explained that there would be a minimum of protocol and M. Musitelli said that this would suit the President very well indeed. The President would then helicopter into Central London and arrive at No.10 shortly before 1245. He would need to leave again at 1500 hours, again using a helicopter to the airport.

It was agreed that participation in the discussion would be limited to the Prime Minister, President Mitterrand and one official on each side, probably Mr. Attali and me. I suggested that Christopher Thierry, President Mitterrand's interpreter, should be the sole interpreter. The Prime Minister knows him and has full confidence in him. M. Musitelli thought that this would be acceptable.

I suggested that we should think in terms of an announcement of the visit early next week. M. Musitelli agreed and will propose a brief text after he has spoken to President Mitterrand.

I should be grateful if Protocol and Conference Department and GHF could now take on the detailed arrangements for the visit. M. Musitelli undertook to telephone back before the end of the week with any comments on the above programme.

I am copying this letter to Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

CHARLES POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.