

Ref. A086/2858

MR POWELL

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In the margins of the meeting of Personal Representatives over the weekend, I agreed provisionally with Monsieur Attali on the text of a press statement and background note for President Mitterrand's visit on 16 October.

--- 2. The text is attached.

3. I suggested that the statement should be put out on Tuesday 14 October. Monsieur Attali said that he was not sure that the news would hold until then, and we agreed provisionally that the statement should be issued jointly in London and Paris today, Monday 13 October, at 2.30 pm. (The times in London and Paris at present coincide).

4. Unless the Elysée hear from us before then, they will issue the French translation of this text at 2.30 pm this afternoon. If we want to change either the text or the time of the announcement, I suggest that you get in touch direct with Monsieur Musitelli (Monsieur Attali said that he himself would not be available).

5. We discussed briefly the press arrangements after the meeting. I said that I had no instructions. I doubted whether it was the kind of occasion that called for a joint press conference, but it would no doubt be necessary to have some brief joint press statement. I said that I would seek further instructions on this matter, with a view to having a word with Monsieur Attali on the telephone on Tuesday 14 October.

6. I am sending copies of this minute and of the press statement to the Private Secretary to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

13 October 1986

Ref. A086/2816

MR POWELL

CDP  
JTKInformal Visit by President Mitterrand

I have spoken again with Monsieur Attali in the light of your minute of 6 October.

2. This visit is not intended to replace the Anglo-French Summit arranged for 21 November. It is the intention to proceed with both meetings. President Mitterrand is perfectly content to be accompanied only by Monsieur Attali. I shall ascertain from Monsieur Attali over the weekend what matters President Mitterrand particularly wishes to discuss.

3. I offered the three dates mentioned in your minute, in that order of preference. The President has accepted for Thursday 16 October; it is understood that, since it is a Cabinet day, no Cabinet Minister would be able to meet the President on arrival. The President has a late afternoon appointment back in Paris, and will not therefore be hanging around.

4. I said I thought that we should probably arrange for helicopter transit between the airport and central London.

5. Monsieur Attali said that the President would not propose to make any announcement about this visit until next week; he was not more specific than that. This is also a point which I could discuss with him over the weekend.

6. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Private Secretary to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

RTA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

7 October 1986