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FM PARIS
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 1057
OF 201733Z OCTOBER 86
INFO SAVING BONN
ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT: 21 NOVEMBER.

SUMMARY

1. I CALLED TODAY ON THE FRENCH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, DE COIGNAC, TO ASK ABOUT FRENCH IDEAS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE BILATERAL SUMMIT ON 21 NOVEMBER. I SAID THAT WE LOOKED TO THE FRENCH AS HOSTS TO SUGGEST A PROGRAMME AND PARTICIPATION. A POSSIBLE OUTLINE EMERGED.

DETAIL

2. DE COIGNAC ACKNOWLEDGED THAT COHABITATION WAS MAKING PLANNING DIFFICULT. HE WAS STILL WORKING ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FRANCO-GERMAN BILATERAL NEXT WEEK IN FRANKFURT. HE KNEW WHAT BOTH MITTERRAND AND CHIRAC WANTED, BUT IT WAS NOT EASY TO COMBINE THEIR IDEAS. HE HAD RATHER HOPED THAT I MIGHT GIVE HIM SOME FIRM BRITISH VIEWS WHICH HE COULD PUT FORWARD TO THE ELYSEE AND MATIGNON. I REPEATED THAT IT WAS UP TO THE FRENCH SIDE TO LET US KNOW HOW THE PROGRAMME SHOULD BE ARRANGED TO MEET THEIR SPECIFIC POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

3. DE COIGNAC SAID THAT MITTERRAND WOULD PROBABLY WANT A SUMMIT RATHER ON THE LINES OF LAST YEAR'S SHORT MEETING IN DOWNING STREET. HE WOULD LOOK FOR A TETE-A-TETE MEETING WITH MRS THATCHER, PROBABLY FOLLOWED BY AN ENLARGED SESSION (IE INCLUDING MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PERHAPS ONE OR TWO OFFICIALS). THERE WOULD BE A LUNCH AT THE ELYSEE, AT WHICH CHIRAC MIGHT BE PRESENT. EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER LUNCH THERE WOULD BE THE USUAL PLENARY SESSION AT WHICH MINISTERS WOULD REPORT ON THEIR SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS. AFTER A BREAK, THE MEETING WOULD CONCLUDE WITH THE USUAL JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE. THE PRESIDENT WOULD WANT PROVISION FOR A SHORT REST AFTER LUNCH. HE BELIEVED HOWEVER THAT CHIRAC WOULD WISH TO MATCH WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR MRS THATCHER'S TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT. THIS WOULD INVOLVE EITHER A SUBSTANTIAL TETE-A-TETE AT THE MATIGNON OR POSSIBLY A SHORTER TETE-A-TETE FOLLOWED BY AN ENLARGED SESSION. HE ASSUMED THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED INTO THE PROGRAMME UNLESS MRS THATCHER WERE PREPARED TO SAY CATEGORICALLY THAT SHE DID NOT WANT IT.

4. AFTER SOME EXPLORATION OF THESE IDEAS WE CONCLUDED THAT A POSSIBLE OUTLINE WOULD BE ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

- 1000 ARRIVE VILLACOUBLAY AIRPORT.
- 1030-1130 TALKS AT ELYSEE, PARTLY TETE-A-TETE AND PARTLY ENLARGED DEPENDING ON THE WISHES OF THE TWO PRINCIPALS.
- 1145-1245 TALKS AT MATIGNON, DIVIDED SIMILARLY INTO A TETE-A-TETE AND ENLARGED SESSION.

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1300 LUNCH AT ELYSEE.
1500-1600 PLENARY SESSION WITH MINISTERS.
1615-1700 PRESS CONFERENCE.
1715 DEPART VILLACOUBLAY.

DE COIGNAC SAID HE WOULD PUT THIS FORWARD TO MTTERRAND AND CHIRAC FOR A PRELIMINARY REACTION. I SAID I WOULD LET HIM KNOW IF IT EVOKED ANY IMMEDIATE COMMENT IN LONDON BUT THAT WE WOULD NOT TREAT IT AS A PROPOSAL UNTIL HE COMMUNICATED IT TO US OFFICIALLY.

5. THIS OUTLINE WOULD INVOLVE AN EARLY START FROM LONDON - ABOUT 0800 BRITISH TIME. RETURN TO LONDON WOULD BE AT ABOUT 1715 BRITISH TIME. (ONE POSSIBLE COMPLICATION OF WHICH WE HAVE JUST HEARD INFORMALLY FROM BUJON, CHIRAC'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, IS THAT CHIRAC IS WONDERING IF HE MIGHT GIVE A DINNER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE EVENING. THIS WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY LENGTHEN THE PROGRAMME.)

6. ON PARTICIPATION DE COIGNAC COULD DO NO MORE THAN OFFER A LIST OF FRENCH MINISTERS WHO, JUDGING BY PAST PRACTICE, MIGHT BE INVITED TO TALK TO THEIR BRITISH OPPOSITE NUMBERS AND REPORT TO THE PLENARY SESSION. HIS LIST WAS: BALLADUR, RAIMOND, GIRAUD, PASQUA/PANDRAUD (FOR SECURITY QUESTIONS), MEHAIGNERIE/DOUFFIAGUES (FOR TRANSPORT QUESTIONS), MADELIN, GUILLAUME AND BOSSON. OTHER NAMES RAISED IN DISCUSSION WERE NOIR (FOREIGN TRADE) AND LEOTARD (CULTURE/ARTS). I COMMENTED THAT MANY IF NOT ALL OF THE BRITISH MINISTERS CONCERNED ALREADY KNEW THEIR FRENCH OPPOSITE NUMBERS AND THAT WE MIGHT LOOK TO EACH COUPLE TO CONSIDER WHETHER A FURTHER MEETING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SUMMIT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL. THERE MIGHT BE OTHER SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED, FOR INSTANCE ENERGY (WHICH WOULD FALL HERE TO MEHAIGNERIE). DE COIGNAC AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE A PRACTICAL WAY OF PROCEEDING.

7. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A STEER FAIRLY SOON ABOUT WHICH OF THE BRITISH MINISTERS CONCERNED WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE PART. I THINK THAT IN MOST CASES THEIR FRENCH OPPOSITE NUMBERS WILL BE READY TO FALL IN WITH THEIR WISHES.

FRETWELL

FCO PASS SAVING BONN

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

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