

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT

I attach some additional briefing material which has come in. The papers at A describe the current political scene in France and also deal with the French government's Middle East policy.

Those at B deal with the particular defence and arms control issues which President Mitterrand is likely to raise. As you will see, he is interested in an account of your discussions at Camp David, your views on the US thesis that air-breathing systems can provide effective deterrence in the absence of ballistic missiles, and the prospect for cooperation in procuring AWACS/NIMROD.

The papers at C relate to the apparent French wish to try to coordinate our respective conditions for the involvement of our nuclear weapons in arms reductions' negotiations. The French conditions are currently even firmer than our own. I do not think that in the space of a short meeting there is any prospect of our aligning the two positions, unless the French are prepared to change theirs fairly radically. It would be a mistake to change our conditions which have served well and have been stated in the House on several occasions. But it is important to try to agree a joint line for use at the press conference if possible. A draft is attached which seems to me would serve quite well.

It would be helpful if you could bring these papers with you tomorrow, although I do have a spare set in case you do not do so.

C.D.P

CHARLES POWELL

20 November 1986

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