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15 January 1987

From the Private Secretary

M. BALLADUR

The Prime Minister has agreed to see M. Balladur on 26 March at 1215. I should be grateful for briefing by 23 March. The Chancellor is, of course, welcome to attend the talk.

I am copying this letter to Lyn Parker (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and David Williamson (Cabinet Office).

Charles Powell

A.C.S. Allan, Esq.,
HM Treasury.

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PRIME MINISTER

M. BALLADUR

The French Economics and Finance Minister, M. Balladur, is coming to London on 26 March for a talk with the Chancellor.

Balladur is in effect Chirac's Deputy. You met him in Paris and rather liked him. Chirac has said that he would be grateful if you would see him briefly. There is advantage in sticking close to the French, and in particular in enlisting Balladur's support for resistance to more money for the European Community,

Agree to see M. Balladur briefly?

C DP

Yes

Charles Powell

14 January 1987



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
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14 January 1987

Charles Powell Esq
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Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 13 January about M. Ballardur request to call on the Prime Minister on 26 March. He is, as you surmised, coming in to see the Chancellor that morning.

The Chancellor would be perfectly content for the Prime Minister also to see M. Ballardur on that day, but feels that he himself should also be present.

Yours
Alex

A C S ALLAN
Principal Private Secretary



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 January 1987

The French Ambassador has been in touch to ask whether it would be possible for the Prime Minister to receive M. Balladur on 26 March. I assume that he is coming to see the Chancellor then.

Although it would be unusual for the Prime Minister to see a visiting Finance Minister, I see some advantage in her doing so in this case. She met Balladur briefly during the Anglo-French Summit and was quite impressed by him. It might also be a useful occasion for her to urge on Balladur the need for Britain and France to work closely together against Delors' ideas on the future financing of the Community.

✓ SF | I am sure that the Prime Minister would welcome the Chancellor's advice. I am seeing the French Ambassador on the evening of 15 January and would like if possible to give him an answer then.

(C. D. POWELL)

A.C.S. Allan, Esq.,
HM Treasury.

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b.c.P.C.

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