



Copy No 1 of 13 Copies

Page 1 of 2 Pages

MO 18/5(A)E

Prime Minister

mr

CDP  
18/3PRIME MINISTERVISIT TO FRANCE, 9TH-10TH MARCH 1987

I visited Paris from 9th-10th March as the guest of M. Giraud. The visit was a continuation of the regular contacts we have had over the last year.

2. My visit included extensive talks with M. Giraud and a visit to the Strategic Submarine Base at Brest. The atmosphere was extremely cordial and Giraud showed himself keen to co-operate in a number of areas, not just those where tangible and specific French interests are engaged but also, I felt, because he is receptive to the wider advantages of co-operation within the Alliance framework. We discussed a number of equipment collaboration projects, the exchange of naval information in the Gulf area, and practical co-operation in support of AWACS.

3. As regards the nuclear area, M. Giraud clearly hankers after a deeper co-operation than we have offered and would have liked to sell us submarine launched strategic missiles, but he recognises that our choice is firmly made and irreversible. He did not press on me personally the case for buying the French air-launched tactical nuclear missile, although the officials accompanying me



were briefed on the project. He accepted proposals for future co-operation on nuclear-related subjects in the terms agreed following my minute to you of 5th February; we will pursue these contacts in a measured way, keeping the Americans informed as appropriate. In accordance with your wishes the issue of water space management was not raised. But, I still believe there are advantages in talking to the French on this subject at some later date. I shall be minuting you separately on this within the next few days.

4. I am sending copies of this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

C.Y.

Ministry of Defence

17 March 1987