



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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Jean Charles

CAP
2/4.

France-Afghanistan: Visit to London
of M. Jean Francois Deniau

The Prime Minister will wish to know that M. Deniau, a former Minister and now Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, has been appointed M. Chirac's special envoy on Afghanistan. He is to produce a report in six months on all aspects of the crisis and on possible solutions. He intends to visit the region. He has asked to visit London first, and arrives tonight. Lady Young has offered to see him tomorrow : this will be followed by a detailed official briefing.

The Embassy in Paris have reported that he also hoped to call on the Prime Minister. But we see no need for that, and believe that he will be content with the calls arranged at the FCO. A call on the Prime Minister has in any case not been requested.

We understand that M. Deniau is likely to be in London from the evening of Thursday 2 April until the evening of Friday 3 April.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

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DENIAU, JEAN-FRANÇOIS

President of the Clubs Perspectives et Réalités.

Born 1928 in Paris. Degrees in law, political studies and letters. ENA. Inspection des Finances (1952). His first job was in the secretariat of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for European Economic Co-operation (1955), followed by a spell in the cabinet of the Minister of Industry and Commerce (1957) and later an appointment to the French Delegation to OECD and the Inter-Governmental Conference for the Common Market and EURATOM, where he was responsible for association with third countries. Director General in charge of negotiations for the enlargement of the Community 1959-67. French Ambassador in Mauritania 1963-66, from which he returned to take charge of co-ordinating policy on colour television. President of the Franco-Soviet Mixed Commission. European Commissioner 1967-73. State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with responsibility for Co-operation, 1973-74. State Secretary for Agriculture 1975-76, Ambassador at Madrid 1976-77, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1977-78, Minister of External Trade 1978-80, Minister for Administrative Reform 1980-81. UDF Deputy for the Cher 1978-81. President of the Departmental Council of the Cher since 1979. MEP since 1979.

Deniau is articulate, able and ambitious. His career paralleled that of Giscard to whom he used to be close, although relations have apparently cooled. He is one of the class of exceptional civil servants who, after rising rapidly to the top, have had the opportunity under the Fifth Republic through ministerial office to make themselves a career in national politics. During the 1981 Presidential election campaign he acted as Giscard's chief strategist. Has recently taken a notably pro-American anti-Soviet line, and is closely involved in encouraging support for anti-Communist guerrillas in eg Afghanistan.

He speaks good English (his grandmother was Irish). Twice married, with two children of the first marriage. His hobby is sailing about which he has written a book.