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MR. INGHAM

VISIT OF M. CHIRAC

The French would like to announce M. Chirac's visit to Chequers next Thursday morning, 16 April. I have agreed to this. I should be grateful if you could put out a brief announcement from No.10 at the same time (1100 hours their time). I suggest something very simple such as:

"At the invitation of the Prime Minister, the French Prime Minister, M. Jacques Chirac, will come to Chequers for talks on Sunday 26 April."

In any background, you might remind the press that there was a similar meeting at Chequers last summer or autumn, and further bilateral discussion following the Anglo/French Summit in Paris last November. M. Chirac will be accompanied only by his Foreign Affairs Adviser (and the Prime Minister by Mr. Powell).

PCB

PP (Charles Powell)

13 April 1987



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 April 1987

Dear Lyn

VISIT OF M. CHIRAC

Francois Bujon telephoned me today about the arrangements for M. Chirac's visit to Chequers on 26 April.

The French would like to announce the visit on Thursday 16 April at 1100 hours their time. I have agreed to this and will ask our press section to put out a short statement then.

M. Chirac intends to arrive at Northolt at 1130, getting to Chequers at 12 noon. He will leave Chequers again at approximately 1445 for take-off at 1515/1530. You will no doubt wish to consider which Minister might meet him at the airport and make the other necessary arrangements.

We considered the subjects which might be discussed at the Chequers meeting. Obviously East/West relations and arms control will be at the top of the agenda. There will also need to be discussion of European Community issues, in particular agriculture and future financing of the Community. Chirac is keen to talk about international economic questions and preparations for the June Economic Summit, the Middle East will need to be touched upon and there may be one or two bilateral issues which ought to be raised, for instance defence. I should be grateful if you could put in hand briefing on these topics, to reach us by 23 April if possible.

I might add that Francois Bujon told me that the Russians had still not offered firm dates for Chirac's visit to the Soviet Union. If the French did not hear from them by the end of this week, they would almost certainly try to postpone Chirac's visit by a couple of months.

I am copying this letter to John Howe (Ministry of Defence), Alex Allan (HM Treasury) and David Williamson (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Andy

CP (Charles Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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