



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 April 1987

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 24 March enclosing two letters to the Prime Minister from M. Chirac dealing with the 30th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, and with a French action programme for Europe in the fields of culture and education. I enclose a draft reply to both letters, agreed with Departments responsible.

The French ideas have now been spelled out in a "Blue Book" of 17 proposals. They include:

- a European language academy;
- a greater European dimension to education;
- development of school exchanges;
- audio-visual cooperation;
- promotion of European writers.

The French have consistently worked for closer European cooperation in the cultural field. M. Chirac proposes a meeting of European Community Ministers to discuss his cultural initiative. He envisages cooperation outside and beyond the Community framework, eg including other Western European countries not in the EC.

EC Culture Ministers are due to meet in June and will have a first informal discussion of the French ideas then. We shall not be able to agree to a number of the French proposals but others will also have problems with aspects of these. Insofar as the French are envisaging action outside the Community framework their initiative may usefully delay decisions on some Community proposals with which we disagree. The draft reply to M. Chirac makes no commitment to any of the French proposals.

I am copying this letter to Rob Smith (DES), Michael Stark (Office of Arts and Libraries), Timothy Walker (DTI) and David Williamson (Cabinet Office).

Long ever,
L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

1910-1911

1910-1911



DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

The Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Copies to:

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

HE M. Jacques Chirac

TAIBHH

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your two letters of 23 March marking the occasion of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

CAVEAT

I was grateful to you for letting me have your latest thinking on cultural and educational cooperation between European countries. Some of the issues to which you have drawn attention are already under consideration by the Culture Ministers of Member States and we look forward to discussing your initiative when they next meet in a few weeks' time. As your proposal itself acknowledges, we have to be realistic about the financial and institutional constraints, however much we would like to do more.

Enclosures flag(s)

I agree with you that, in the last thirty years, the Treaty of Rome has made a major contribution to the stability of Europe. It has helped to replace poverty with prosperity. And it has given Europe a more powerful voice in the world. The United Kingdom has been fully involved for the last fifteen of those years and we will continue to play our full part in working for an effective Community. The strong links between our two countries are an indication of what can be achieved. I look forward to discussing with you

FRANK
RELATION
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very soon how we can work together to tackle the
acute problems the Community faces this year.



AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
LONDRES

L'AMBASSADEUR

1st April, 1987

CRP
2/6.

Dear Prime Minister,

I have now received through the
diplomatic bag two letters addressed to you by
Monsieur Jacques Chirac, Premier Ministre.

dated 23.3.87

I enclose them herewith.

You will remember that the texts of
these letters were sent to you on Tuesday 24th March.

Yours sincerely

Luc de La Barre

Luc de La Barre de Nanteuil

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.



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