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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 November 1988

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Telephone Conversation with M. Rocard:
2 November

Thank you for your letter of 27 October about M Rocard's attempt to telephone the Prime Minister. Because of the public holiday in France our Embassy in Paris have so far been unable to shed any light on the subject he/wants to raise. They will try again tomorrow morning.

We consider it unlikely that M Rocard would wish to raise issues in which the President takes a close personal interest, such as defence, foreign affairs or European Community subjects. It is more likely that he wishes to suggest a meeting with the Prime Minister, or to mention a personal initiative of some sort.

M Rocard accepted in principle an invitation to deliver a Jean Monnet commemorative lecture at Chatham House. He will hope to call on the Prime Minister then. At present February looks a better bet to us than January. If M Rocard raises this, the Prime Minister might therefore steer him towards dates in early February. I shall be writing separately in greater detail.

The Prime Minister has agreed to travel to France on 30 November for a meeting with President Mitterrand (venue is yet to be proposed). It is just possible that M Rocard may wish to suggest that he also see the Prime Minister on this occasion.

As for personal initiatives, M Rocard recently proposed creation of a new international environmental organisation. When in Paris tomorrow, the Foreign Secretary hopes to discover more about French intentions. If M Rocard seeks the Prime Minister's support for this initiative, we recommend that the Prime Minister take a cautious line: that she would welcome full details of the proposal to which she will give careful thought; that she hopes M Rocard will give her time to reflect before making news of his approach public; and to question whether a new institution is really needed.

/Other

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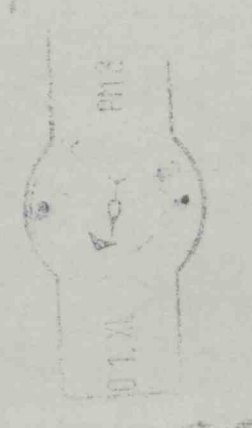
Other subjects to which the Prime Minister might refer are the major visit to France on 7-11 November by the Prince and Princess of Wales; the 9 November Jean Monnet Commemoration in Paris to which she and The Queen were invited (the Home Secretary will represent); and the 27 February Summit.

Lowes
L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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PRIME MINISTER

FRENCH PRIME MINISTER

Monsieur Rocard remains adamant that he wants to telephone you, but it is not particularly urgent. We have settled tentatively on next Wednesday morning at 1000, i.e., a few hours before you leave for Poland. I hope this is all right.

CDP

CDP

27 October, 1988.

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*File
to*

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

27 October, 1988.

FRENCH PRIME MINISTER

Monsieur Rocard tried to telephone the Prime Minister today, but it was impossible to find a time convenient to both of them. The same applies to tomorrow. We have tentatively agreed on 1000 next Wednesday, 2 November. His office do not seem to know what the subject is. I would be interested in anything which our Embassy can find out.

(C.D. Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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