

MEETING RECORDED

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 March 1990

ANGLO FRENCH RELATIONS

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had a word this morning about the Prime Minister's forthcoming meeting with M. Rocard. The Foreign Secretary said that he hoped the Prime Minister would use the occasion to encourage the French towards closer co-operation in European defence. They were constantly talking about the need for more European integration to balance Germany, yet seemed to shy away from making a reality of it in the defence field. We should try and get them to talk freely about the options such as building up WEU or multi-national forces at divisional or lower levels. The Prime Minister agreed to do this, while commenting that the French unhelpfully tended to make the purchase of French military equipment the touchstone of defence co-operation.

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