

SUBJECT cc MASTER  
OPS



JAIBGD

file cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 February 1987

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T21187

Dear Mr President,

I am most grateful to you for writing as you did on 27 January about your speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House on 13 January. I am sorry that our weekly Cabinet meeting prevented me from being with you on that occasion.

I found the speech stimulating to read and offering much food for thought. I should like to discuss some of the ideas in it when we next meet. For now I would say only that I appreciate the views you put forward about the contribution Britain and France can make together in building the Europe of the future; and I share your wish to see discussions between our two countries on defence questions intensified. It is indeed important for European and for wider Western security that the United Kingdom and France should work increasingly closely together within the Alliance.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Raymond Thatcher

His Excellency Francois Mitterrand GCB.

OTS



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 February 1987

Dear Charles,

President Mitterrand's Speech at Chatham House

Thank you for your letter of 5 February enclosing one from President Mitterrand of 27 January to the Prime Minister about the President's speech at Chatham House on 15 January. You asked for advice on whether the Prime Minister should reply.

Sir Geoffrey Howe has no doubt that she should. President Mitterrand writes that he would value a response from the Prime Minister particularly on his points about strengthening the dialogue between France and Britain in the military field as the only European nuclear powers. Our information from Mitterrand's close advisers is that in writing to the Prime Minister the President intended to convey a clear signal of readiness for dialogue, but that he well understood the limitations where cooperation on nuclear matters was concerned. He had in other words no intention of pressing on Britain a nuclear relationship that could prejudice our partnership with the United States. As you know, Mitterrand has himself made notable efforts to improve France's own links with the United States. The French moreover regard our fulfilment of the Trident programme as also in their national interests.

Our advice therefore is that the Prime Minister reply in a warm tone welcoming both the progress that has already been made and President Mitterrand's proposal of a more regular and systematic dialogue.

I enclose a draft.

Yours ever,

(L Parker)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street



FROM:  
PRIME MINISTER  
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

Your Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

PRESIDENT FRANCOIS MITTERRAND

*DABED* *to info.*

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

SUBJECT:

I am most grateful to you for writing as you did on 27 January about your speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House on 13 January. *stimulating* I found the speech inspiring to read, *and* am very sorry that our weekly Cabinet meeting prevented me or any senior Ministers from being with you on that occasion. I appreciate the views you put forward about the contribution Britain and France can make together in building the Europe of the future.

CAVEAT .....

*ad*  
*offering*  
*much food*  
*for thought.*  
*we might discuss*  
*some of the*  
*ideas*  
*we hear*  
*at the*  
*meetings*  
*at the time*  
*I would*  
*say only*

I *ad* very much share your wish to see the *discussions* dialogue between our two countries on defence questions strengthened and intensified. As the only two European nuclear powers, we share particular responsibilities in these areas. ~~It is essential that we maintain and improve the network of close contacts and regular exchanges which we have built up.~~ *that we maintain and improve the network of close contacts and regular exchanges which we have built up.* I too hope that we can make further progress. It is important for both Europe and the Alliance *a few wider Western security* that the United Kingdom and France *shall* work increasingly closely together *within the Alliance* in the cause of Western security.

Enclosures flag(s) .....

*that*

FRANKIE

VISITS OF MOTHER

P. 66





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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

5 February 1987

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from President Mitterrand covering his recent speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs. I should be grateful for advice on whether the Prime Minister should reply.

BF //

Charles Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

J