

To No. 10.

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YOUR TELEGRAMS 30 AND 31: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND.

1. THE MESSAGE ITSELF HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THE ELYSEE. I SHALL BE SEEING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE QUAI FOR A TETE-A-TETE LUNCH ON MONDAY 18 JANUARY, AND WILL BRIEF HIM FULLY THEN ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTER'S THINKING. MEANWHILE MINISTER HAS GIVEN A FULL ACCOUNT TO BUJON (MATIGNON) AND TO D'AMECOURT (GIRAUD'S CABINET). BUJON'S IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS POSITIVE. HE NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT THE PRIME MINISTER ENDORSED THE YOUNGER/GIRAUD TALKS ON NUCLEAR MATTERS, AND HE ALSO WELCOMED THE PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ON MATTERS SUCH AS JOINT EXERCISES. HE SAID THE TIME FOR DISCUSSION OF OLD POINTS OF THEOLOGY HAD LONG SINCE PASSED. CHIRAC BELIEVED THAT PRACTICAL MEASURES WERE WHAT COUNTED AND THAT BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ROUTES TO REINFORCING THE EUROPEAN PILLAR WITHIN THE ALLIANCE WERE NEEDED. THIS INDICATION OF MRS THATCHER'S THINKING HAD BEEN VERY TIMELY.

2. BUJON (WHO JUST BEFORE WESTON'S CALL HAD SEEN DAVIDSON OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES) SAID THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE THOUGHT COORDINATION OF FRANCO-BRITISH REPRESENTATIONS AND LOBBYING WITH THE US CONGRESS ON DEFENCE/SECURITY MATTERS WAS ANOTHER AREA WHERE FRANCE AND BRITAIN MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER WORKING TOGETHER. THE FRENCH WERE IMPRESSED BY US CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES OF SENATOR BIDEN'S STAMP (BYRD AND NUNN WERE OTHERS). IT MIGHT WELL BE THAT THE US CONGRESS WOULD BE A MORE RECEPTIVE POINT OF REFERENCE OVER EUROPEAN DEFENCE/SECURITY CONCERNS IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS THAN THE FUTURE ADMINISTRATION ITSELF (HE DID NOT SEEM MUCH IMPRESSED BY THE PROSPECT OF BUSH OR DOLE). IF SO, KEY CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES WOULD BE WORTH SPECIAL ATTENTION, AND GIVEN IN PARTICULAR THE NEED TO MAINTAIN ORTHODOXY IN WASHINGTON ON THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE IN NATO STRATEGY, NO ALLIES WERE BETTER PLACED TO ACT THAN WE TWO.

3. D'AMECOURT DID NOT HAVE TIME TO COMMENT (HE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR AFRICA WITH GIRAUD).

FERGUSSON