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My ref:

Your ref:

J S Wall Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
LONDON
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27 February 1989

CB 27/2

Dear Stephen,

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT: 27 FEBRUARY

Will REQUEST IF REQUIRED

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 13 February to Alex Allen.

It is the Secretary of State's view that this is not an opportune time for him or Lord Caithness to be formally proposing bilateral discussions with the French Environment Minister, Lalonde. We would expect in the normal way to ask him over for discussions in late May or June on prospects for the French EC Presidency and, if necessary, the G7 Summit. But for the moment the Secretary of State would prefer to see the dust settle over the Rocard initiative before taking this forward in any structured way. Lord Caithness will however be seeing Lalonde on several occasions: at Environment Councils on 2 March, 8 May and 8 June and he will also have the opportunity of informal discussions when Lalonde attends our CFC Conference on 5-7 March.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allen (Treasury), Tom Jeffrey and Peter Wardle (DES), Clive Norris (Department of Employment), Eleanor Goodison (OAL); and for information to Brian Hawtin (MOD), Philip Mawer (Home Office), Neil Thornton (DTI), Shirely Stagg (MAFF) and Charles Powell (No 10).

Yours,

Deborah

DEBORAH LAMB
Private Secretary

