

E.R. (1)

PRIME MINISTER

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S VISIT TO CHEQUERS

The attached letter has a number of questions about President Mitterrand's visit to Chequers:

- will you meet him at Northolt (at 1040 on Saturday 1 September)? You will recall that he met you at Mont St. Michel. If so, we could arrange for you both to helicopter to Chequers in a Queen's flight helicopter. Yes
- would you like a carpet guard at Northolt? Yes
- Mitterrand is apparently keen to restrict lunch to six (you, Mitterrand, two Foreign Ministers, No. 10 and Elysee Private Secretaries). Ambassadors and any other officials would lunch elsewhere. Agree to this? Yes
- Are you content to share Mitterrand's interpreter - probably M. Thiery - for the talks rather than have one of your own? This has worked well in the past.

C.D.P. Yes not

C. D. POWELL

24 August 1989

KAYAZB



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

25 August 1989

From the Private Secretary

Dear Bob,

PRESIDENT MITTERAND'S VISIT: 1 SEPTEMBER

Thank you for your letter of 24 August about President Mitterand's visit on 1 September. You will wish to note and act on the following points:

- the Prime Minister will meet President Mitterand at Northolt at 10.40. The Prime Minister and President and accompanying party will then helicopter to Chequers (the Prime Minister will go to Northolt from No. 10). I should be grateful if you could investigate the possibility of having a helicopter from the Queen's Flight. The Prime Minister sees no need for the Foreign Secretary to go to Northolt for the arrival, but would be grateful if he would see President Mitterand off on his departure.
- The Prime Minister would like there to be a carpet guard at Northolt.
- The Prime Minister agrees that the lunch should be restricted to herself, President Mitterand, the two Foreign Ministers and one Adviser each from No. 10 and the Elysée. Separate arrangements can be made for lunch for the Ambassadors (if they still decide to attend) and the FCO/Quai Private Secretaries.
- The Prime Minister would prefer to rely on M. Thierry alone for interpretation if he is willing to undertake this (he has in the past).

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES POWELL

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 August 1989

John Charles

Mitterrand/Dumas Visit: Chequers: 1 September

I should be grateful for a steer on certain practical aspects of the Mitterrand/Dumas visit, now that planning is moving into top gear.

The most important of these is the meeting and greeting arrangements. President Mitterrand and his party will arrive at approximately 10.40 at Northolt, for the drive to Chequers. It would be helpful to know whether the Prime Minister intends meeting the President at the airport (as he did when she visited Mont St Michel for the mini-Summit last year) or whether she would prefer the Foreign Secretary to greet Monsieur Mitterrand. It would also be helpful to know whether the Prime Minister would wish us to lay on a carpet guard.

Our Embassy had a meeting with Mr Hennekinne at the Elysee on 21 August. He said that he was sure Mitterrand would want the lunch to be as restricted as possible. Hennekinne interpreted this to mean the two Heads of Government, two Foreign Ministers plus one Adviser each from No 10 and the Elysee. Interpreters would also of course be present. This arrangement would cut out both Ambassadors and FCO/Quai Private Secretaries. It would be helpful to know whether this fits in with the Prime Minister's own preferences.

We have lined up two interpreters, Mrs Fairweather and Mrs Penny for the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary. The French will probably bring M. Thierry to interpret for M. Mitterrand. We do not know yet whether he will bring a colleague to share the burden with Mrs Penny.

Tolson
R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

NOTE FOR THE FILE

CC.

Mrs. Goodchild

VISIT OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

The FCO (Richard Gozney) telephoned about the Foreign Minister's party and the Chequers lunch. We agreed that the lunch would consist of the Prime Minister, President Mitterrand, two Private Secretaries, two Foreign Ministers, Sir Ewen Fergusson and the French Ambassador or Chargé. The two FCO Private Secretaries who would have been at the Foreign Ministers' meeting would need to be catered for separately.



DM

18 August, 1989.

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