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B.0766

MR WALL

c Sir Robin Butler

Prime Minister

Prime Minister's meeting with President Mitterrand 14/4

Anglo-French talks

I attach a report on the Anglo-French talks in Paris on 12 April which the Prime Minister and President Mitterrand agreed in February should take place. M Morel said that President Mitterrand would also be briefed on the outcome, and would refer to the exchanges when he sees the Prime Minister at the EBRD lunch on Monday.

2. The Prime Minister might take the line:

- had a full report on the discussions
- glad they got off to a good start
- want a confidential dialogue on European Security and nuclear issues as well as the Gulf
- noted your speech to Military Academy on 11 April
- welcome comments in it about the Alliance
- UK needs a balanced outcome to the discussions in the IGC, NATO and WEU
- must have assurance that Alliance and US presence will be fully preserved
- will take a decision on the basis of the package as a whole.



b

Iraq/Kurds

3. President Mitterrand will also want a word about latest developments over refugees in Iraq, where French views are close to ours. He is keen to show that the triangular dialogue between the Prime Minister, President Bush and himself is in good working order. I mentioned to you growing French worries that the relief effort might become entangled in renewed fighting between the Kurds and the Iraqi Army. No doubt you will have been in touch with M Morel again since then.

4. I am sending copies of this minute to Mr Gozney (FCO) and Mr Webb (MOD).

L V Appleyard
L V Appleyard

Cabinet Office
13 April 1991