

*file*  
**TOP COPY  
Q DIST ?**

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM FCO  
TO IMMEDIATE PARIS  
TELNO 581  
OF 311430Z JULY 91  
INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS  
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK

PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADORS  
MODUK (PERSONAL FOR DUS(D) AND AUS(POL))  
FROM SEC POL DEPT

EUROPEAN DEFENCE: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

1. MIFT CONTAINS A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND WHICH WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.
2. THE LETTER PROPOSES, INTER ALIA, A JOINT MEETING OF FOREIGN AND DEFENCE MINISTERS IN THE EARLY AUTUMN. IF NO REPLY OTHERWISE EMERGES TO THE LETTER, GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD ASCERTAIN AFTER A DECENT INTERVAL WHETHER THIS PROPOSAL FINDS FAVOUR IN PRINCIPLE. OUR THOUGHT IS THAT A TIME BETWEEN THE GYMNICH MEETING ON 5/6 OCTOBER AND THE NATO SUMMIT IN EARLY NOVEMBER WOULD BE BEST, BUT SEVERE DIARY PRESSURES AT THIS END MAY BE A CONSTRAINING FACTOR. ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU PICK UP FROM THE FRENCH SIDE WOULD BE USEFUL. WE SHALL NEED TO PUT ADVICE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE BY 21 AUGUST. GRATEFUL ALSO FOR ANY FRENCH VIEWS ABOUT PREPARATION AT OFFICIAL LEVEL FOR THE JOINT FOREIGN AND DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETINGS AND FOR THE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT MITTERRAND.
3. INFORMATION POSTS SHOULD NOT REFER TO THIS MESSAGE IN OUTSIDE CONTACTS.
4. SEE MIFT.

HOGG

YYYY