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Visit by President Mitterrand: 2 December

The French Ambassador called on Mr Garel-Jones this morning, and confirmed that President Mitterrand would be coming on 2 December. He said that he would be likely to arrive around 1230 and to leave immediately after lunch.

Mr Garel-Jones told M. Dorin (as we discussed earlier this week) that the Prime Minister would want to concentrate on the IGCs, Lockerbie and GATT; and that he would also want to touch on Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union and the Anglo-French Frigate (your letter of 15 November to Jane Binstead, MOD). The Middle East (Iraq and the peace process) might also be discussed, if time permitted. M. Dorin said that the President would probably be accompanied by Messrs Védrine and Morel and Mme. de Margerie. We expect he will also bring his interpreter, Christopher Thiery.

Mr Garel-Jones gave M. Dorin a detailed run-down of subjects of concern to us in the political union IGC.

I am copying this letter to Jane Binstead (MOD), Jeremy Heywood (HMT), Sue Bishop (DTI) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever, Christopher Pontie.

(C N R Prentice) Private Secretary

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