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File C: (Foreign)
Mitterrand men



bcc PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 November 1991

Jean Christophe,

VISIT OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND:
2 DECEMBER

Pierre Morel rang this morning to confirm arrangements for President Mitterrand's visit on 2 December. He will, as Dorin indicated, be accompanied by Vedrine, Morel and Caroline de Margerie.

President Mitterrand will land at 1230 so we need to arrange a helicopter to get him to No.10 by 1300 for lunch. The lunch/talks will end at 1500. Helicopter back to the airport.

President Mitterrand does not wish to say anything to the Press but would prefer to issue a short agreed press line. I told Morel that I thought this would be fine with the Prime Minister.

We confirmed that the main subjects would be the IGCs, GATT, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Lockerbie. Morel said the President would wish to raise his nuclear initiative, to which he is still clearly attached. Morel implied that if the Americans remained lukewarm Mitterrand might want to do something bilaterally with the Soviet Union. I think we should be prepared for a suggestion that we and the French might do something jointly.

On Lockerbie, Morel spoke enthusiastically about the talks that had been held in Paris. I will not record the detail since I imagine Duncan Slater will be reporting on it.

I mentioned the Anglo/French frigate and Morel agreed that it would, in principle, be a good idea if the President and Prime Minister could say something about it in the press line after the talks. I should be grateful if the Ministry of Defence could pursue this and let me have a background note and a form of words, brokered with the French as necessary.

I shall be in touch presently about participation on our side when I have consulted the Prime Minister.

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I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence)
and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Jans
Steph

J. S. WALL

Christopher Prentice, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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