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MR WALL

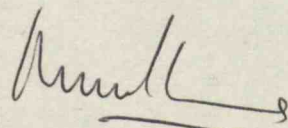
cc Sir Robin Butler  
Mr Gozney, PS/Foreign Secretary  
Mr Webb, PS/Defence Secretary  
Mr Mottram, MoD  
Mr Goulden, FCO

President Mitterrand's Visit: Control of Weapons  
in the Soviet Union and Nuclear Assistance

Miss Binstead's letter to you of 28 November contains a line for the Prime Minister to take with President Mitterrand on nuclear proliferation from the Soviet Union. This is in addition to the FCO briefing in Richard Gozney's letter of the same date.

2. Sir Robin Butler's conversation this afternoon with Vedrine (recorded separately) makes clear that President Mitterrand is likely to pay close attention to the Prime Minister's remarks about nuclear matters. Vedrine confirmed that Mitterrand wanted to concert on a France/UK/US basis before taking forward his initiative for a meeting of the four nuclear powers. This is borne out by the news I have had via the MoD that the French have proposed a trilateral in the margins of the NAC. According to Vedrine, Mitterrand is also open to discussion in NATO itself.

3. In talking to Mitterrand, the Prime Minister will want to welcome the trilateral. The MoD, who came to see me today, are also keen, as reflected in their brief, that the Prime Minister should convey to Mitterrand personally that the UK has ideas in this area which it wishes to explore with the French and Americans.



Miss L P Neville-Jones

Cabinet Office  
29 November 1991

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