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PRIME MINISTER

FRENCH ELECTIONS

I have had a word tonight with Ewen Fergusson in Paris. He had two points he wanted to draw to your attention:

- First, that there are very strong rumours that M. Rocard will be appointed Prime Minister. It is helpful that you saw him recently.
- Second, he wonders whether you will consider telephoning Mitterrand in the morning. He thinks it would be greatly appreciated and make a considerable impact. We would set up the call with the usual interpreter on the line. Given that Mitterrand does not seem to have been much involved in the recent negotiations over the hostages, I do not think this should be an obstacle to your telephoning him in this way.

C. D. POWELL

8 May 1988