

SUBJECT

cc MASTER



File

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 May 1988

Dear Lyn,

PRIME MINISTER'S TALK WITH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

The Prime Minister telephoned President Mitterrand this evening to convey her congratulations on his re-election as President.

The Prime Minister said that she had sent a formal message of congratulations but wanted to convey personally to the President her good wishes. It had been a remarkable victory. She understood that it was the first time that anyone had been directly elected to the Presidency twice during the Fifth Republic. She was particularly pleased because the President's re-election was an extra element of continuity in the West's leadership. She looked forward to continuing to work with him.

The President thanked the Prime Minister for her very welcome initiative in telephoning him. He and the Prime Minister now both had a lot of time ahead of them in office, which was very welcome from the point of view of what Britain and France could do together. He was moved by the Prime Minister's gesture and hoped that they could meet soon. The Prime Minister agreed that it might be useful to have a talk ahead of the Economic Summit in Toronto. She suggested that M. Attali and Mr. Powell should be in touch to fix a date. President Mitterrand said that this would be an excellent idea.

The No. 10 Press Office have subsequently released the text of the Prime Minister's message to the President and informed the press that the telephone call has taken place.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan (H.M. Treasury), Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence), Stephen Ratcliffe (Department of Trade and Industry), Shirley Stagg (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), Nick Sanderson (Home Office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Charles Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.