

FILE MPJ



PRIME MINISTER

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. 10 DOWNING STREET
T25a/189
LONDON SW1A 2AA

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SUBJECT: cc Market
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THE PRIME MINISTER

31 January 1989

Dear Mr. President,

I was most grateful for your letter of 6 January inviting me to participate in the celebrations on 13-14 July of the Bicentenary of the French Revolution. In principle, I should be delighted to accept. However, 13 July is a Thursday, the day on which our Cabinet meeting takes place and on which I must take questions in Parliament which do not finish until 3.30 pm. I know you will understand that it would be very difficult for me to miss these events. It would therefore be most helpful to have as firm an indication as possible of what is planned for 13 and 14 July so that I can better judge the length of my likely absence from London.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Monsieur le Président Mitterrand, GCB.

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 January 1989

Dear Mr. President.

I was most grateful for your letter of 6 January inviting me to participate in the celebrations on 13-14 July of the Bicentenary of the French Revolution. In principle, I should be delighted to accept. However, 13 July is a Thursday, the day on which our Cabinet meeting takes place and on which I must take questions in Parliament. I know you will understand that it would be very difficult for me to miss these events. It would therefore be most helpful to have as firm an indication as possible of what is planned for 13 and 14 July so that I can better judge the length of my likely absence from London.

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Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

P.S. 'Questions' finish at 3.30 p.m.

His Excellency Monsieur le Président Mitterrand, GCB.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 January 1989

Dear Charles,

French Bicentenary: Invitation to the Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 12 January about President Mitterrand's invitation to the Prime Minister to participate in the Bicentenary celebrations in Paris on 13-14 July.

The programme for the Bicentenary celebrations is still to be confirmed but is likely to involve:

13 July

- lunch
- celebrations
- formal opening of Bastille Opera
- dinner

14 July

- military procession
- reception followed by lunch at the Elysee

1500 Economic Summit begins.

On participation, the Paris Embassy understand that all Summit Seven Heads of Delegation are being invited to participate in the Bicentenary celebrations and that some (as yet unspecified) Third World Heads of State and Government are also being invited. They expect Francophone Africans to attend in force and understand that Mr Mubarak is likely to attend. They also expect either Heads of State or Heads of Government of all EC Member States to be invited. No invitation has been received so far by a member of the Royal Family and Sir Ewen Fergusson has made clear to the Elysee that it is most unusual for The Queen and Prime Minister to attend the same event overseas, except for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which The Queen attends in her capacity as Head of the Commonwealth. In the circumstance, Sir Ewen thinks it most unlikely that an invitation will also be extended to HM The Queen.

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The Bicentenary celebrations on 13-14 July will combine a large element of ceremony aimed at the promotion of France and its leadership. The French, and President Mitterrand personally, will attach great importance to high level attendance from France's closest partners and allies. It seems probable that Chancellor Kohl would himself go. Given that the Economic Summit would lead on directly from the celebrations, it would be difficult to attend only the Summit without appearing deliberately to cold-shoulder the Bicentenary. The Foreign Secretary is in favour of the Prime Minister's presence for as much of the celebrations as other commitments permit. He accordingly recommends that the Prime Minister accept the invitation in principle. I attach a draft reply in this sense to President Mitterrand.

Yours ever,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)	DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note		TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +
	FROM: PM		Reference
	DEPARTMENT:	TEL. NO:	POFAAD
	BUILDING:	ROOM NO:	Your Reference
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	TO:	Copies to:	
Top Secret	His Excellency		
Secret	President Francois Mitterrand GCB		
Confidential	Palais de l'Elysée		
Restricted	Paris		
Unclassified	SUBJECT:		
PRIVACY MARKING			
..... In Confidence			
CAVEAT			
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Enclosures flag(s)			

FRANCS : belgian
PTS.