



GUEST LIST - RECEPTION : SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 1989
1800-1900

Chancery

Mr and Mrs Michael Llewellyn Smith
Mr and Mrs Jeremy Greenstock
Mr and Mrs Nick Marden
Mr and Mrs Quinton Quayle
Mr and Mrs Nick Adamson
Mrs Alison Phillips
Miss Pat Ramsey
Mr Nigel Cox

Administration

Mr and Mrs Peter Phelan

Agriculture and Economic

Mr and Mrs Andrew Kuyk
Mr Peter Jenkins

Financial and Commercial Section

Mr and Mrs Michael Jay
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Technology

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Mr and Mrs Martin Boyle
Mr and Mrs Roger Cook
Mr Keith Walker
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Consular Section

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Mr John Lacey

Information Section

Mr and Mrs Dick Wilkinson
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Office of the Service Attachés

Air Commodore and Mrs Brian Speed
Captain and Mrs Gerald Booth
Brigadier and Mrs Clinton Henshaw
Commander and Mrs John Prichard
Wing Commander and Mrs Jim Davies

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Mr John Gray
Mr Chris Segar
Mr and Mrs Robert Gordon

British Council

Mr and Mrs Peter Prescott
Dr and Mrs Ken Churchill

Total - 54



VISIT TO PARIS BY PRIME MINISTER AND MR THATCHER
25-26 FEBRUARY 1989

DINNER AT EMBASSY ON SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 1989

M Jacques CHIRAC

Former Prime Minister; President of the RPR; Mayor of Paris.

Born 1932. Education included a summer course at Harvard. Fought in Algeria. Ecole Nationale d'Administration. First came to notice as an energetic member of M Pompidou's Cabinet in 1962. Entered politics in 1967 winning from the Left a constituency in the Corrèze. Retained his seat in subsequent elections. Junior Minister for Social Affairs and Employment in 1967. Junior Minister under Giscard d'Estaing at the Ministry of Economy and Finance 1968-71. Subsequently Minister responsible for the Government's relations with Parliament. Minister of Agriculture (1972-74) and briefly Minister of the Interior before being appointed Giscard's first Prime Minister on 27 May 1974. Secretary-General of the Gaullist UDR (Union des Démocrates pour la Ve République) from December 1974 to June 1975 and thereafter Honorary Secretary-General. Resigned as Prime Minister in August 1976. President of the new Gaullist movement, the RPR (Rassemblement pour la République), in December 1976. Mayor of Paris since 1977. Member of the European Parliament 1979-80. Appointed Prime Minister for the second time after the March 1986 elections. Ran for President in 1988 but defeated by Mitterrand in the second round.

Chirac rose meteorically. He began as an ambitious technocrat, bent on making it to the top. He made some early mistakes; he was a failure when handling the government's relations with Parliament. But he rapidly acquired a keen political sense. He is a tireless schemer, his calculation that Chaban-Delmas would be a bad candidate in the 1974 presidential-elections and encouragement of defections from the Gaullist camp put Giscard



in his debt and helped to make him the obvious choice for Prime Minister. Despite a scrupulous façade of loyalty to Giscard, Chirac began to fall out with him at least a year before his resignation as Prime Minister. Their differences were both temperamental and political. Chirac resented Giscard's monarchical tendencies and became increasingly convinced that his strategy of winning over the soft fringe of the Left by liberal reform was mistaken. The crunch came in the cantonal elections in March 1976, which were a severe defeat for the President. Characteristically, however, Chirac moved too quickly to take advantage of Giscard's set-back, and the latter, after losing his footing for a moment, fought back, progressively reducing the powers of his Prime Minister to a point where Chirac had little alternative but to resign.

Chirac quickly relaunched himself in national politics. In an attempt to revitalise and rejuvenate the UDR, he changed its name to the RPR and was elected President of the new movement in December 1976. His victory in 1977 in the first direct election for the Paris Mairie against the Elysée candidate, d'Ornano, further aggravated his relations with Giscard.

Chirac campaigned energetically and effectively for the government in the 1978 legislative elections. Subsequently, he considered that Giscard and Barre did not give the Gaullists sufficient credit for their part in the Majority's victory. In February 1981, Chirac announced his decision to stand against Giscard for the Presidency. He received 17.99% of the first round vote.

Chirac is a man of action rather than reflection; his nickname, "the bulldozer", is apt; but there is no doubt that his combination of authority, drive and nationalism appeals to a wide range of conservative opinion. Although the RPR/UDF majority in the March 1986 elections was smaller than they had hoped, Chirac operated effectively to block Mitterrand's hopes of finding another candidate for Prime Minister who could command a parliamentary majority, and then to form a government



in which the RPR had the upper hand over the UDF. Despite their temperamental and political differences, Chirac and Mitterrand made cohabitation work, Chirac wanting enough time to show that his Government's policies could succeed, Mitterrand posing as the champion of constitutional propriety and hoping that the Government's policies would fail and Chirac become unpopular.

Chirac declared his candidature for the 1988 presidential elections early, and succeeded, through an energetic campaign, in overtaking Barre to become the Right's candidate against Mitterrand. But in its closing stages his campaign took on a frenetic air which compared badly with Mitterrand's reassuring calm: his 'coup de théâtre' in effecting the release - on the same day - of three French hostages from the Lebanon and a number of Gendarmes held captive by Kanak separatists in New Caledonia, did nothing to change the growing impression that he seemed too erratic, desperate and personally ambitious to make a good President. Chirac lost the elections in May 1988 by a decisive margin (46%-54%). He was shaken in particular by his failure to realise more than 20% as the RPR candidate in the first round. He is still in control of the RPR and its most popular figure. But he has rivals, notably Phillipe Séguin and Charles Pasqua. The RPR's Secretary-General, Alain Juppé (separate note attached) has acted as Party leader and spokesman whilst Chirac has been out of the public eye. He has loyally fended off Chirac's critics within the Party.

The RPR has recently been trying to rejuvenate and soften its image. Chirac has said that his approach to Europe during the Presidential campaign placed too much emphasis on technical, economic issues, not enough on 'human' and social questions. By a new 'caring, listening' approach the RPR hopes to appeal more to the Socialists. Chirac nonetheless has a considerable task to eradicate his image as an impulsive, over-ambitious politician.



Chirac is campaigning vigorously in Paris for the forthcoming Municipal Elections. He will certainly be re-elected Mayor (Paris is an RPR stronghold - last time they took all twenty arrondissements). But the Socialists, led by Pierre Joxe, are this time mounting a major effort to take back some arrondissements. If they succeed, Chirac risks seeing renewed attacks within the RPR on his leadership.

He is married to an attractive and socially assiduous wife, Bernadette, niece of de Courcel. Two daughters. He speaks reasonably good English.

M Alain JUPPE

Secretary-General of the RPR. Former Ministre délégué responsible to the Minister of the Economy and Finance for the Budget.

Born 1945. Educated at the prestigious Ecole Normale Supérieure, Sciences-Po and ENA, becoming an Inspecteur de Finances in 1972. Worked in Chirac's Prime Ministerial cabinet in 1976 and subsequently for the then Minister for Co-Operation (Aid). He joined Chirac in the Hotel de Ville in Paris in 1978, becoming Deputy Mayor of Paris in 1983 and taking on responsibility for the city's financial and budget affairs. He became RPR National Secretary for Economic Recovery in 1984 and played a leading (and liberal) role in preparation of RPR and subsequently RPR/UDF economic policy. Elected a député for the Paris area in March 1986. Appointed Secretary-General of the RPR by Chirac in June 1988.

Demonstrated a vigorous approach to budgetary problems whilst Minister, juggling with the difficult task of reducing simultaneously taxation, expenditure and the budget deficit. But clearly found Balladur's close supervision irksome. Since Chirac's defeat in the 1988 Presidential elections, Juppé has loyally held the fort for him within the RPR, fending off those, like Philippe Séguin [redacted] who questioned Chirac's leadership. He has forged a new team of députés in their thirties and forties (Barzach, Perben, Sarkozy, Alliot-Marie) with the aim of rejuvenating the party's image. Favours building bridges with the same generation in the Parti Républicain (Léotard, Madelin). But accused by some in the RPR of neglecting its traditional, provincial Gaullist base for superficial Parisian slickness.

Married, his wife is called Eva. They have two children.

M Jérôme MONOD

Right wing businessman. Born in 1930 and educated in schools in Paris and at ENA, Monod spent the early part of his career in the private offices ("cabinets") of Gaullist Ministers including Debré (Prime Minister 1959-62) and Chirac during his first spell as Prime Minister (1974-76). He was Secretary-General of the RPR, Chirac's party, from 1976-78. Since 1979 he has worked in the private sector, while retaining his links with Chirac and the RPR. He has been Chief Executive of the large French water company, Lyonnaise des Eaux, since 1989, and a board member of numerous other companies.

Lyonnaise des Eaux is a major French company, with a 1987 turnover of Fr 16.9 billion (£1.5 billion) and a workforce of around 36,000. Its main activities are water supply and distribution (42% of turnover), water treatment (11%), energy and heating (19%), mortuary services (14%) and - more recently - cable and television.

Lyonnaise des Eaux, like the other two French water distribution companies, Générale des Eaux and SAUR (a subsidiary of the construction company Bouygues) has recently been buying into the English statutory water companies as part of a strategy to increase market share in the Community, and to take advantage of deregulation in the United Kingdom industry after the privatisation of the water authorities. Lyonnaise des Eaux have a controlling interest in Sunderland and South Shields, Newcastle and Gateshead, Essex and East Anglian water companies; Générale des Eaux in Lee Valley, North Surrey, Tendring, and Folkestone; SAUR in mid-Sussex, Eastbourne and West Kent. One or other of the companies has minority stakes in the Rickmansworth, Colne Valley, Mid Southern, Mid-Kent, British and South Staffordshire companies.

Married, his wife is called Françoise, they have three children. Speaks good English.



VISIT TO PARIS BY PRIME MINISTER AND MR THATCHER
25-26 FEBRUARY 1989

DINNER AT EMBASSY ON SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 1989

Madame Edith CRESSON

Minister for European Affairs.

Born 1935 near Paris. Daughter of a Socialist senior civil servant. Economist by training. Joined the Socialist Party (PS) after meeting Mitterrand (to whom she has been very close) in the sixties. Active in PS youth and student section; member of the PS Management Committee 1975-81. She freely admitted that she owed her place in the Party leadership to the rule that the top bodies must contain at least 10% women. MEP 1979-81. Having twice run unsuccessfully against the incumbent centrist notable in a Vienne constituency, she finally won the seat in 1981. Minister of Agriculture in 1981; Minister of External Trade 1983; also of Industrial Redeployment 1984. PS Deputy from 1986-88. Became Minister for European Affairs in May 1988.

Mme Cresson is an attractive woman with an exuberant personal and political style. Reckoned by some to be too fond of confrontation, she is said nevertheless to be open to advice. Not a subtle analyst, but comes across well on TV. She wrote a somewhat artless political autobiography 'Avec le Soleil' in 1977. As Minister of Agriculture, she overcame conservative French farmers' mistrust of a woman Minister with no farming background. As Minister for External Trade she was willing to contemplate protectionism to reduce the trade deficit.



As Minister for European Affairs Mme Cresson has a coordinating role for all EC affairs. She takes an interest in and attempts to influence French policy on all the major issues on the Community agenda, which does not always endear her to her colleagues, such as Bérégovoy (Finance Minister) and Fauroux (Industry Minister). She has also been asked to coordinate the adaptation of the French economy to the imperatives of the Single Market programme. Working groups on which industrialists sit alongside officials have been set up to advise her on changes in French law and practice.

Married to a Peugeot executive. Two children. Has visited England many times (most recently 7 February for talks with Mrs Chalker and DTI Ministers). Good English.

Separate note on M Cresson attached.

M Jacques CRESSON

M Cresson is a Directeur of FRECOM (Société Française des Echanges Commerciaux). This is a division of the Peugeot-Citroën joint purchasing department which trades as SOGEDAC (Société Générale des Achats). FRECOM is responsible for compensation trading with those countries - Yugoslavia, Portugal for example, where this is a requirement for selling cars. Where possible these compensation purchasing deals are done in car components (usually low cost, low technical products such as jacks, tyre braces etc) but where this is not possible they trade in other commodities.

M Cresson reports directly to the Président-Directeur-Général of SOGEDAC, M Jean Perronin.

M Raymond BARRE

Former Prime Minister.

Born 1924 in Réunion, Professor at Caen, then Paris. Director of Economic Research at the National Institute of Political Sciences 1958. Cabinet of the Jeanneney (Minister of Industry 1959-62). Professor of Political Economy, Sciences - Po 1963. Vice-President of the EC Commission, with responsibility for economic and financial affairs 1967-72. Member of the General Council of the Bank of France in 1973. His first Ministerial post in Giscard's Government was as Minister of Foreign Trade January to August 1976, when he replaced Chirac as Prime Minister. Reappointed Prime Minister following the Government's success in the 1978 legislative elections and remained in office until Giscard's defeat in May 1981. UDF Deputy for Lyons since 1978.

President Giscard referred to him as "the best economist in France", but as an academic Barre was more concerned with teaching than original research. His main work on political economy (published in 1956) became a basic text-book for French universities. He is an economic liberal and a monetary disciplinarian.

Barre was a surprise choice as Prime Minister in 1976, having played no previous part in partisan politics. He was appointed to bring the economy under control after Chirac's response to the first oil shock - a massive injection of additional demand into the economy through an increased fiscal deficit and rapid monetary growth - had apparently contributed to high inflation, and a deteriorating balance of payments. While Barre was in office industrial competitiveness and export performance improved but inflation stayed high and unemployment rose. As the country went into the Presidential election of 1981, Barre's policies were unpopular even among those on the right. Soon after, however, many came to compare his performance favourably with that of his socialist successor. He regained sufficient popularity to stand again for President in 1988, but ran an ill-judged, complacent



Presidential campaign, enabling Jacques Chirac to knock him out in the first round.

He affects a detached, Gaullien approach to politics, cultivating the image of a man above party calculations and compromises, to whom the country can rally. He has therefore made a point of refusing to found his own party despite pressure from sympathisers to do so. But he is not a General without troops. He has been energetic in establishing a country-wide network of supporters and has worked with skill and success to convert growing numbers within the UDF to Barrism. Since Mitterrand's re-election in May 1988 he has kept his distance from Government and Opposition alike, whilst behind-the-scenes encouraging the centrists to break away from Giscard d'Estaing's UDF and form their own political grouping. He wants to overcome the Left/Right divide and rally a wide consensus around moderate policies. In November 1988, he founded the "Liberal, European and Social Convention" (CLES), to debate French and European issues. It is intended to inject new life into French politics by attracting people outside the political classes, especially young people and women. Barre denies that it is a political party.

Barre is number three on the list of the outgoing UDF Mayor of Lyons (who is 78 years old). Barre may be lining himself up to succeed him next time round. Characteristically, he denies this and presents himself as aloof from local politicking. An opinion poll published in "Le Figaro" on 9 February showed that Raymond Barre remains the most popular Opposition leader for the French as a whole. But Jacques Chirac is more popular with the Right.

Though a convinced European, Barre found it hard to reconcile himself to the UK's accession to the EC (not because he was anti-British, but because he believed that this would alter the EC balance to France's disadvantage). Now he accepts that times have changed.

His wife Eva is of Hungarian descent. They have two sons. He speaks good English.



Baron Ernest-Antoine ("Ernekind") SEILLIERE DE LABORDE

Chairman of CGIP (a holding group with interests in packaging, cement, computer software and financial services).

Vice-Chairman of the CNPF (French equivalent of the CBI) and Chairman of their economic sub-committee.

Born 1937. He read law at Paris University and spent two years at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration before joining the French diplomatic service in 1966. His diplomatic career was spent mainly in the cabinets of successive Foreign Ministers. He then left in 1976 to join Wendel, the family firm once famous as the leading steelmaker in Lorraine, but by then in serious financial difficulty.

The steelworks closed in 1978, and the Wendel empire came close to bankruptcy. But M Seillière has rebuilt the family fortunes, through the Compagnie Générale d'Industrie et de Participations (CGIP), to the point where CGIP is one of the 50 largest firms in France, with a 1987 turnover of FF12 billion, generating a FF550 million profit.

Companies in which CGIP have a major stake include Cap Gemini (a computer software group with substantial operations in the UK) and Carnaud (a packaging company whose plans announced last autumn to merge with Metal Box have run into shareholder resistance).

M Seillière is a leading candidate to become the next head of the CNPF. He was guest speaker at a seminar on mergers and acquisitions organised at the Embassy in January 1989.

Married with four children. Speaks impeccable English.