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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

6 December 1989

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: STRASBOURG

I enclose President Mitterrand's letter about the forthcoming European Council which arrived late this morning. I should be grateful if you could arrange for it to be translated rapidly and let me have an English version in time for the Prime Minister to see this evening. It would also be helpful to have at the same time any particular observations on it.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Gieve (H.M. Treasury), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry), Clive Norris (Department of Employment) and David Hadley (Cabinet Office).

Charles Powell

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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cc/c.
AMBASSADE DE FRANCE

LONDRES

L'AMBASSADEUR

6 December 1989

Dear Mr Powell,

I have just received by telegramme the text of a letter addressed to the Prime Minister by Monsieur François MITTERRAND, President of the French Republic relating to the European Council he will chair in Strasbourg on December 8 and 9.

Please find it herewith.

Yours sincerely

p.p. 

Luc de La Barre de Nanteuil

Charles POWELL Esq.,
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10, Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Enc. 1

CHERE AMIE,

DANS QUELQUES JOURS, NOUS AURONS LE PLAISIR DE NOUS RETROUVER A STRASBOURG OU J'AURAI L'HONNEUR DE VOUS ACCUEILLIR POUR LA REUNION FORMELLE DU CONSEIL EUROPEEN SOUS LA PRESIDENCE FRANCAISE.

CHACUN EST CONSCIENT QUE LE CONSEIL EUROPEEN DE STRASBOURG SE TIENT A UN MOMENT OU S'AMORCE UNE EVOLUTION DANS L'HISTOIRE DE NOTRE CONTINENT DONT IL EST DIFFICILE ENCORE DE PERCEVOIR TOUS LES RESSORTS ET TOUTES LES IMPLICATIONS.

IL APPARAIT TRES CLAIREMENT CEPENDANT QUE LES CHANGEMENTS EN COURS DOIVENT BEAUCOUP A L'ATTRAIT QU'EXERCE LE MODELE DE L'EUROPE COMMUNAUTAIRE SUR LE PLAN ECONOMIQUE COMME SUR LE PLAN POLITIQUE. IL EST DONC DE L'INTERET DE TOUS LES EUROPEENS QUE LA COMMUNAUTE SE RENFORCE ET QU'ELLE ACCELERE SA MARCHE VERS L'UNION EUROPEENNE. A STRASBOURG, NOUS AURONS A PRENDRE DES DECISIONS DANS CE SENS. LA COMMUNAUTE DEVRA AUSSI, AU TERME DE CE CONSEIL, FAIRE ENTENDRE LE MESSAGE DE CONFIANCE DE SOLIDARITE ET D'OUVERTURE QUE NOS OPINIONS PUBLIQUES, NOS PARTENAIRES EUROPEENS ET LE RESTE DU MONDE ATTENDENT.

JE PROPOSE QUE NOUS ABORDIONS LES DIFFERENTS POINTS DE NOTRE ORDRE DU JOUR SELON LE PROGRAMME SUIVANT:

LA REUNION DEBUTERA LE VENDREDI 8 DECEMBRE A 11 H. NOUS RECEVRONS D'ABORD, SELON UNE TRADITION MAINTENANT BIEN ETABLIE, M. ENRIQUE BARON, PRESIDENT DU PARLEMENT EUROPEEN, QUI S'EXPRIMERA AU NOM DE SON INSTITUTION SUR LES PRINCIPAUX THEMES QUI SERONT EVOQUES LORS DE NOTRE REUNION.

PUIS, NOUS COMMENCERONS NOS DEBATS A PROPREMENT PARLER PAR UN ECHANGE DE VUES DE CARACTERE GENERAL SUR L'ETAT DES TRAVAUX RELATIFS A LA MISE EN OEUVRE DE L'ACTE UNIQUE EUROPEEN, SUR LA BASE D'UN EXPOSE DU PRESIDENT DELORS. J'ESPERE QUE NOUS POURRONS CONSTATER, A CETTE OCCASION, QUE LE RYTHME DES PROGRES VERS LE MARCHE UNIQUE EST SATISFAISANT MAIS AUSSI QUE L'EFFORT NE DOIT EN AUCUN CAS SE RELACHER SI NOUS VOULONS RESPECTER L'ECHEANCE DE 1993.

JE PROPOSE QUE NOUS ABORDIONS ENSUITE, AU COURS D'UN DEJEUNER DE TRAVAIL AVEC LES MINISTRES DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES, LA QUESTION DE L'UNION ECONOMIQUE ET MONETAIRE. IL S'AGIT D'UN DOSSIER FONDAMENTAL POUR L'AVENIR DE NOTRE COMMUNAUTE ET LES TRAVAUX PREPARATOIRES EFFECTUES CONFORMEMENT AU MANDAT DONNE A MADRID ONT BIEN MIS EN EVIDENCE LES QUESTIONS AUXQUELLES LA CONFERENCE INTER-GOUVERNEMENTALE DEVRA APPORTER DES REPONSES POUR ELABORER UN TRAITE. NOUS DEVONS MAINTENANT NOUS PRONONCER SUR LA DATE DE LA CONVOCACTION DE LA CONFERENCE. CETTE DECISION EST D'ORES ET DEJA PERCUE COMME LA PREUVE LA PLUS CLAIRE QUE NOUS PUISSIONS APPORTER DE NOTRE VOLONTE DE FAIRE FRANCHIR UNE NOUVELLE ETAPE A LA COMMUNAUTE.

A LA REPRISE DES TRAVAUX, DANS L'APRES-MIDI, NOUS EXAMINERONS D'ABORD LE PROJET DE CHARTE SOCIALE ET LES CONDITIONS DANS LESQUELLES POURRONT ETRE EFFECTIVEMENT APPLIQUES LES DROITS QUI Y SONT INSCRITS. NOUS FERONS ENSUITE LE POINT SUR D'AUTRES QUESTIONS TELLES QUE LA LIBERTE DE CIRCULATION DES PERSONNES, LA LUTTE CONTRE LA DROGUE, L'ENVIRONNEMENT, L'AUDIOVISUEL. CES SUJETS SONT IMPORTANTS SI NOUS VOULONS QUE L'EUROPE NE SE REDUISE PAS, AUX YEUX DE NOS CONCITOYENS, A UNE CONSTRUCTION ABSTRAITE ET BUREAUCRATIQUE MAIS QU'ELLE AIT AUSSI LE VISAGE DE LA SOLIDARITE, DU PROGRES, ET DU MIEUX-ETRE DANS LA VIE QUOTIDIENNE DE CHACUN.

AVANT LE DINER, JE SUGGERE QUE NOUS DISCUTIONS DES ASPECTS ECONOMIQUES DE NOS RELATIONS AVEC LES PAYS DE L'EST. NOUS AVONS DEJA ABORDE CES QUESTIONS LORS DE NOTRE REUNION RECENTE A L'ELYSEE, A L'ISSUE DE LAQUELLE UN CERTAIN NOMBRE D'INITIATIVES ONT ETE PRISES, ET UN CERTAIN NOMBRE D'IDEES ONT ETE LANCEES. IL EST TEMPS MAINTENANT PRENDRE LES DECISIONS DE PRINCIPE SUR LES ACTIONS QUI S'IMPOSENT POUR PROLONGER ET STRUCTURER L'ELAN DE SOLIDARITE QUI S'EST MANIFESTE ENVERS CES PAYS, NOTAMMENT DANS LE DOMAINE DE L'ASSISTANCE FINANCIERE.

ENFIN, LE DINER DE TRAVAIL QUI REUNIRA LES CHEFS D'ETAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT NOUS PERMETTRA DE POURSUIVRE LA DISCUSSION SUR CE THEME ET EN PARTICULIER D'EN APPROFONDIR TOUTES LES RETOMBEES POLITIQUES. LE DINER SERA EGALEMENT L'OCCASION DE PASSER EN REVUE NOS RELATIONS AVEC UN CERTAIN NOMBRE D'AUTRES PAYS QUI NOUS SONT PROCHES POUR DES RAISONS TENANT A LA GEOGRAPHIE OU A L'HISTOIRE, ET EN PARTICULIER LES PAYS DE L'AELE, LES PAYS DE LA CONVENTION DE LOME ET LES PAYS MEDITERRANEENS.

LES MINISTRES DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES DE LEUR COTE EVOQUERONT AU DINER LES QUESTIONS TOUCHANT LE MOYEN-ORIENT, L'AFRIQUE AUSTRALE, L'AMERIQUE LATINE NOTAMMENT.

ILS PREPARERONT A NOTRE INTENTION DES PROJETS DE DECLARATIONS SUR TOUS CES SUJETS.

LE SAMEDI MATIN SERA CONSACRE, COMME C'EST LA TRADITION, A LA REDACTION FINALE DES CONCLUSIONS REFLETANT L'ENSEMBLE DE NOS DEBATS SUR LA BASE D'UN PROJET ELABORE PAR LA PRESIDENCE.

TRES CORDIALEMENT A VOUS: SIGNE : FRANCOIS MITTERRAND.

CONFIDENTIAL

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 December 1989

Jim Austin

CDP 6/kit

Dear Charles,

Strasbourg: President Mitterrand's Agenda Letter

Thank you for your letter of 6 December.

Step end

President Mitterrand's agenda letter (translation enclosed) contains no surprises, and shows that he has accepted Delors' advice that the Single Market should be the first Strasbourg subject, and our advice against waiting until the dinner before starting to discuss Eastern Europe. The reference to French ideas for a new Development Bank for Eastern Europe is implicit rather than explicit - but we can be sure that these ideas will nevertheless be pursued. The reference to the Social Charter is low-key, while the references to a decision on an IGC start-date are as expected.

The French can be in no doubt about our views on all these issues, and the Foreign Secretary sees no need for the Prime Minister to reply to President Mitterrand, and possible disadvantage in doing so. We last replied to such a letter in the rather more dramatic circumstances of February 1988.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve (HMT), Neil Thornton (DTI), Clive Norris (Dept. of Employment) and David Hadley (Cabinet Office).

*Yours,
Stephen Wall*

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Friend,

In a few days time we shall have the pleasure of meeting again in Strasbourg where I shall have the honour of welcoming you to the formal meeting of the European Council under French Presidency.

Everyone is aware that the European Council at Strasbourg is taking place at a time when the history of our continent is beginning to evolve to an extent and with implications which are as yet difficult to perceive.

It does however seem very clear that the changes taking place owe much to the attraction exerted by the model provided by Community Europe both on the economic and political front. It is therefore in the interest of all Europeans for the Community to strengthen its position and step up progress towards European Union. We will be called upon in Strasbourg to take decisions on these matters. By the end of this Council, the Community will also have to put forth the message of confidence and openness which our public opinion, European partners and the rest of the world are waiting for.

I propose that we tackle the various items on our agenda in the following order:

The meeting will commence on Friday, 8 December at 11.00 hours. In accordance with what is by now well-established tradition, we shall start by welcoming Mr Enrique Baron, President of the European Parliament, who will speak on behalf of that institution on the main topics to be covered at our meeting.

Then will shall begin our discussions properly speaking by holding a general exchange of views on the state of work on

implementation of the Single European Act, on the basis of a report from President Delors. I hope that this time we shall be able to say that the rate of progress towards the single market is satisfactory but also that efforts must under no circumstances be allowed to slacken if we are to meet the 1993 deadline.

I suggest that we should then go on, during a working lunch with Foreign Ministers, to tackle the question of economic and monetary union. This is a fundamental question for the future of our Community and the preparatory work carried out pursuant to the mandate given in Madrid has clearly highlighted the questions to which the intergovernmental conference needs to reply in order for a treaty to be drawn up. We need to decide now on the date for convening a conference. That decision is already perceived as being the clearest indication that we can give that we have the will to enter a new phase in the Community.

When work resumes in the afternoon, we shall first of all study the Social Charter and the ways in which the rights which it contains can be effectively implemented. We shall then review other matters such as freedom of movement of persons, the fight against drugs, the environment, radio and television. These subjects are important if we are concerned that Europe should not, in the eyes of our fellow citizens, be reduced to an abstract and bureaucratic construction and that it should also stand for solidarity, progress and well-being in the everyday life of all our citizens.

Before having dinner, I suggest that we discuss the economic aspects of our relations with Eastern Europe. We have already begun tackling this question when we met recently at the Elysée Palace. At the end of that meeting a number of initiatives were made and various ideas put forward. It is now time for taking decisions in principle on the action which needs to be taken in order to prolong and channel the

wave of solidarity which has manifested itself towards those countries, especially in the field of financial assistance.

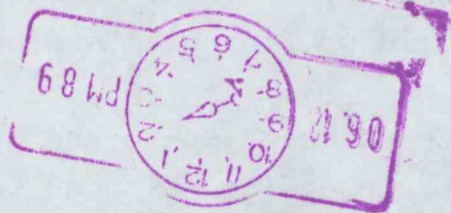
Finally, the working dinner with Heads of State and of Government will enable us to continue discussion on these themes and in particular to make closer study of all their political implications. The dinner will also provide an opportunity for reviewing our relations with certain other countries with which we have close connections either for geographical or historical reasons, notably the EFTA, Lomé Convention and Mediterranean countries.

For their part, over dinner, Foreign Ministers will raise questions mainly with regard to the Middle East, South Africa and Latin America.

They will prepare draft declarations for us on all these subjects.

On Saturday morning, we shall devote ourselves as usual to the final wording of the conclusions, reflecting all our discussions, on the basis of a draft prepared by the Presidency.

Courtesy close: signed François Mitterrand.



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Strasbourg
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