

Prime Minister

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MR POWELL

I asked Monsieur Attali whether Monsieur Mitterrand had any particular subjects which he wished to discuss with the Prime Minister on 16 October. He said that, though the President would no doubt be glad to have a preliminary word about the preparations for the European Council in December, the subjects that would be uppermost in his mind, and the subjects which he most wished to discuss with the Prime Minister, were East-West relations, arms control and the implications of the Reykjavik meeting for Britain and France. Monsieur Mitterrand may well be looking for closer relations between the two countries on defence nuclear matters. You will no doubt want to organise briefing accordingly.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

13 October 1986



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Thank you for your note about the announcement of President Mitterrand's visit on 16 October. I am perfectly content with the text and have asked the No. 10 Press Office to make the announcement at 1430 hours. I have confirmed this to M. Musitelli in the Elysee.

I also told M. Musitelli that the Prime Minister did not envisage any joint press conference or contacts with the press after the meeting. I said that she and President Mitterrand would no doubt agree a few sentences which could be used to characterise their discussions which each side would give out to the press separately. M. Musitelli thought that this would be entirely acceptable to President Mitterrand.

I am copying this minute to the Private Secretary to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

Charles Powell

13 October 1986