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FM PARIS

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 526

OF 281125Z MAY 88

INFO PRIORITY EC POSTS, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO
INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW, TOKYO, OTTAWA

CALL ON FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER

SUMMARY

1. DUMAS WARMLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND LOOKING FORWARD TO FORTHCOMING MEETINGS. ON EC ISSUES, HE PLACED EMPHASIS ON THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY ASPECTS. AGRICULTURE AND DEBT THE LEADING SUBJECTS FOR FRANCE AT TORONTO.

DETAIL

2. ON 26 MAY I PAID MY FIRST CALL ON M. ROLAND DUMAS SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS SUMMARISE THE MORE IMPORTANT OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE DISCUSSION. FULL RECORD WILL BE SENT TO WED IN THE BAG LEAVING 31 MAY.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

3. DUMAS SPOKE WARMLY OF HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE FORTHCOMING SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. WHEN I MENTIONED THE CLOSENESS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS IN PARIS AND LONDON, AND OF THE NEED TO CONTINUE REGULAR CONTACTS AT MINISTERIAL AND OFFICIAL LEVEL, HE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ASSENTED. HE ALSO ENDORSED MY COMMENT THAT THE DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP, AND PARTICULARLY THE SEARCH FOR AREAS FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION, WERE AN IMPORTANT PART OF BILATERAL LINKS. (HE WILL NOT BE AT SHULTZ'S NATO BRIEFING ON 3 JUNE, AS HE WILL BE SPEAKING AT UNSSD IN NEW YORK AT THAT TIME.)

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

4. I ASKED WHETHER DUMAS HAD ANY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION, AS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND M. ROCARD, WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER VISITED PARIS ON 10 JUNE. HE IMMEDIATELY SAID THAT WE NEED HAVE NO COHABITATION WORRIES. THE PRESIDENT'S ROLE WOULD BE TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH THE BROAD LINES OF STRATEGY, TAKING ACCOUNT OF HIS SPECIFIC CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE, LEAVING TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE GOVERNMENT THE DETAILED BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT ITSELF. WE AGREED THAT THE PRIME

MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT WOULD CERTAINLY WISH TO DISCUSS THE MOSCOW SUMMIT AND EAST/WEST RELATIONS GENERALLY. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I SAID I THOUGHT THAT MRS THATCHER MIGHT WISH TO PLACE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE FRANCO-BRITISH DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP. HE THOUGHT THAT THE MORE DETAILED ISSUES AT TORONTO AND HANOVER MIGHT BE FOR THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS, LEAVING THE BROAD ORIENTATIONS OF EC POLICY FOR THE DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT. (SEE ALSO MY TELNO 522 FOR AN ELYSEE OFFICIALS'S VIEW).

EC ISSUES

5. I UNDERLINED THE UK'S DETERMINATION TO PRESS AHEAD TOWARDS 1992. I REFERRED TO KOHL'S LETTER AND SAID THAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR A PACKAGE OF PRACTICAL MEASURES. DUMAS' REACTION WAS TO PUT PARTICULAR WEIGHT ON THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY ASPECTS. I SAID THAT IMPORTANT WORK WAS CONTINUING E.G. IN ECOFIN AND BETWEEN OFFICIALS ON THE PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF COMMON CURRENCY, EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK ETC. THESE WERE COMPLICATED QUESTIONS AND IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BE CLEAR ON THE IMPLICATIONS BEFORE RUSHING INTO DECISIONS. DUMAS REPLIED THAT THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH PROGRESS IN EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION COULD BE MADE WAS FOR POLITICAL LEADERS TO LAY DOWN OBJECTIVES AND PROVIDE THE MOMENTUM: EXPERTS COULD ALWAYS FIND REASONS FOR NOT DOING SOMETHING.

TORONTO SUMMIT

6. WE HAD ONLY A BRIEF EXCHANGE ON TORONTO, DURING WHICH DUMAS SAID THAT AGRICULTURE AND DEBT WERE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE FRENCH.

VISIT OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES

7. DUMAS INDICATED THAT, AT HIS LEVEL, APPROVAL OF THE DATES AND OF THE OUTLINE PROGRAMME FOR THE ROYAL VISIT COULD BE TAKEN AS READ. THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL, HOWEVER, HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED FOR TRH'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE CEREMONIES ON 11 NOVEMBER (SEE ALSO PARAGRAPH 7 OF PARIS TELNO 522.)

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cc HMT
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2 May 1988

From the Private Secretary

POSSIBLE VISIT BY FORMER PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING

I have seen the Paris Telegram No. 412 about the proposed visit of former President Giscard d'Estaing. It seems to be most unlikely that a discussion of the subjects which Giscard d'Estaing wishes to pursue with the Prime Minister would be fruitful, and the period in question is an exceptionally busy one. I think we may have to stall on this.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan in the Treasury.

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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