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PRIME MINISTER

Opening of the Joint European Torus (JET), Culham

The attached letter shows that The Queen has agreed to open this European Community project, probably on 9 April. Apparently President Mitterrand is keen to come - presumably in his capacity as President of the European Community.

It is not suggested that you should attend the opening ceremony but it would be odd if you did not see President Mitterrand while he was here. I do not think a decision is needed now but you will wish to bear this event in mind in case he refers to it in Paris on Monday - if he does you may want to say that you hope you can entertain him at No.10. *on Cheques.*

May I confirm that you see no objection to the ceremony taking place on 9 April?

Confirmed.

A.J.C.

not

19 January 1984

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 January 1984

Dear John,

Opening of the Joint European Torus (JET), Culham

HM The Queen has agreed to open this European Community collaborative nuclear fusion research project. Buckingham Palace have provisionally proposed that the ceremony should take place on 9 April and we expect this to be confirmed very shortly. The French have told us that President Mitterrand is very keen to attend the opening, and 9 April is within the range of dates on which he has indicated he would be free to attend. We have not yet told the French of the proposed date, but hope to do so very soon.

We would not wish to suggest that the Prime Minister should attend the opening ceremony with The Queen and President Mitterrand. But, although the Prime Minister will have seen Mitterrand at the European Council shortly before, we think that it might be misinterpreted if she did not offer on the occasion provided by the visit to have talks with him, perhaps over a private dinner in the evening - or, conceivably, on the Sunday evening before. There will no doubt be a number of outstanding bilateral and European Community issues and it would be a good opportunity to speak to him.

I should be grateful if you would let me know what the Prime Minister would like to do.

I am copying this letter to Michael Reidy at the Department of Energy.

Yours ever,

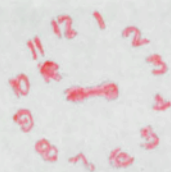
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
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