

SECRET AND PERSONAL



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*S. U. 1 Revl.*

Ref. A084/571

MR COLES *MR 4/2*

When I saw Monsieur Attali last weekend, I asked whether I was to read any other significance than lack of time into President Mitterrand's failure to raise with the Prime Minister on 23 January the defence issues which Monsieur Attali had mentioned to me before that.

2. Monsieur Attali said that the only reason why the President did not raise the subject was that there had not been time. He hoped that there would be time on 5 March.

*REA*

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

20 February 1984

SECRET AND PERSONAL



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**CONFIDENTIAL**



Ref. A084/570

MR COLES

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A.F.C. 20/2

f-a.

I took advantage of Monsieur Attali's visit to London at the weekend to have a "bilateral" with him.

2. He told me that the President had mentioned in passing at a public occasion, last Friday I think, that he would be visiting the Prime Minister on 5 March. If a formal announcement has not been made, it can thus be made at any time.

3. Monsieur Attali agreed that arrangements should be made between the French Embassy and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (West European Department), on the understanding that there would be reference to him and me on any difficult or sensitive point.

4. He asked what sort of timing we envisaged. I said that I was not instructed in detail, but I thought that we were envisaging arrival at about 11.00 am, talks before lunch, followed by lunch.

5. Monsieur Attali also agreed that it would be useful if he and I could meet, with Mr Williamson and Monsieur Morel, during the week before the Prime Minister's meeting with the President. We agreed that it might be useful if that meeting were to be held after the Federal Chancellor had seen both the Prime Minister and President Mitterrand. We are at present thinking in terms of the afternoon of Wednesday 29 February.

6. I am sending a copy of this minute to Mr Bone.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

20 February 1984

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