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From the Private Secretary

27 June 1989

BICENTENARY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Thank you for your letter of 26 June about the detailed arrangements for the Prime Minister's participation in the celebrations of the Bicentenary of the French Revolution.

Bilateral Meetings

I am content with the suggestions you make, in particular that we should try to deal with some of the requests by arranging for the Prime Minister to sit next to the people concerned at a bicentenary lunch or dinner. I do not think the Prime Minister would in any case want a separate meeting with President Ershad. My only comment is that she might blanch a bit at breakfast with President Uno. Would it not be possible to breakfast with President Bush or President Salinas?

I do not think the Prime Minister will want her bilaterals to take place at the Elysée but at the British Embassy.

Arrival in Paris

I agree that we should tell the French that the Prime Minister cannot get to Paris before 1145. You should point out that we have moved heaven and earth to get her to Paris in time for the Trocadero Ceremony on 13 July. If it would help I would be perfectly happy to speak to the head of protocol at the Elysée with whom I have a number of contacts.

Social Interpretation

The simple rule of thumb is that the French will have to provide interpretation wherever they are seating the Prime Minister next to a guest who does not speak English. I am astonished that the French suggest we should pay for this. Are we expected to help defray the costs of the meals as well? At the least it seems likely to give the Treasury ideas for our own practice.

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I am copying this letter to Alex Allan and Nigel Wicks
(HM Treasury) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

(C. D. POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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26 June 1989

cc PK.
Dear Charles,

Bicentenary of the French Revolution

Thank you for your letter of 16 June. ^{16 June} As President Bush will attend the Trocadero Ceremony we are planning on the Prime Minister doing so too.

Bilateral Meetings

I attach an up-to-date list of participants in the bicentenary. The Bangladeshis and Uruguayans have now also bid for bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister. (I have already written to you separately about the Uruguayan President.) Programme pressures mean that a formal bilateral with Mubarak (my letter of 15 June) will not be possible: we thus do not see scope for adding even more to the list. However, the Prime Minister will attend three Bicentenary meals and we could ask the French to arrange for her to be seated next to Mubarak and Sanguinetti. Would the Prime Minister like us to try to fix the placement in this way? Ershad is very keen to see her, no doubt in connection with flood control measures but we see no strong case for a meeting and believe that a brief talk in the margins would suffice eg at a reception. There should be opportunities for such ad hoc meetings eg at the 14 July Garden Party.

A programme for the meetings with Presidents Bush, Aquino, Salinas and Messrs Gandhi and Uno might look as follows (the full programme is annexed for ease of reference):

13 July

1530 - 1555

1600 - 1635

1645 - 1735

President Salinas

President Aquino

(Transfer to US Embassy)

President Bush

(Return to British Embassy;
change for Opera)

[1815 depart for Opera]

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that they will be able to arrange our seating requests, placement for meals will probably not be available until the eleventh hour, so it is not possible to predict precisely what may be needed.

During the last couple of years, the floor language for social events at Economic Summits has been English. There is likely to be more French spoken in Paris.

Are you content that we ask the French to provide whispered interpretation at meals as necessary? We understand that we shall be required to pay for such services. We shall write separately about any necessary interpretation for the Prime Minister's bilateral meetings as soon as requirements are clarified.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allen, Nigel Wicks (HM Treasury) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,
Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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FRENCH BICENTENARY: PROGRAMME

12 July

Arrival of Heads of State and Government:
ad hoc bilaterals with Mitterrand.

13 July

Morning	Further arrivals and bilateral meetings as desired
1200	Ceremony at the Trocadero commemorating the Revolution and the Declaration of the Rights of Man, presided over by President Mitterrand
1315	Lunch for Heads of State/Government given by President Mitterrand at the Elysée Separate lunch for accompanying Ministers given by M Lang (Minister for Culture, Major Works and the Bicentenary) at the Palais Royal
Afternoon	Free for bilateral meetings
1900	Inauguration of the Opera de la Bastille
2100	Gala dinner given by President and Mme Mitterrand at the Musée d'Orsay for Heads of State/Government and their spouses.
2130	Separate dinner for accompanying Ministers hosted by Foreign Minister Dumas

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14 July

[Prime Minister breakfasts with Mr Gandhi]

0940	Leave Embassy for
1000-1145	Military parade on Champs Elysée
1200 approx	Garden party hosted by President Mitterrand at Ministry of Foreign Affairs; followed by
1345	Lunch hosted by President Mitterrand at the Hotel de Lassay for Heads of State/Government and their spouses. Separate lunch for accompanying Ministers hosted by M Dumas at the Quai d'Orsay.
1530	Official Bicentenary programme ends and Economic Summit begins
[2230-2330	"La Marseillaise" show at the Place de la Concorde.]

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FRENCH BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS: PARTICIPATING HEADS OF
STATE OR GOVERNMENT

Africa

Cameroon	Madagascar
Cote D'Ivoire	Uganda
Djibouti	Senegal
Egypt	Togo
Gabon	Zimbabwe

Americas

Brazil	Mexico
Canada	Uruguay
USA	Venezuela

Asia

Bangladesh	Pakistan
India	Philippines
Japan	

Europe

UK	Greece
Ireland	Portugal
FRG	Italy

Others

UN Secretary General
EC President

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