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## **Clinton Presidential Records Mandatory Declassification Review**

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

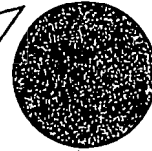
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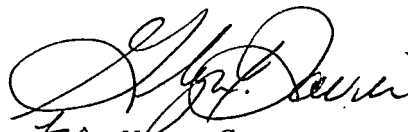
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MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Request from Jack Lang, French Minister for Education and Culture, for an appointment with Mrs. Clinton

French Minister for Education and Culture Jack Lang has requested, through the DCM at the French Embassy, an appointment with Mrs. Clinton on the afternoon of February 11. Mr. Lang has asked for the meeting to discuss the importance of educating school children about AIDS.

We understand that there is disagreement within the French government about the timing and appropriateness of this request. Mr. Lang is not the French government's point person on the AIDS issue and there is some concern that this meeting would detract from President Clinton's first meeting with President Mitterrand. We share these concerns, and we recommend against the request.

  
for Marc Grossman  
Executive Secretary

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526  
2013-0473-M (1.11)  
5/11/2018 KBN

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BRIEFING PAPER

MEETING WITH DANIELLE MITTERRAND,  
WIFE OF FRENCH PRESIDENT FRANCOIS MITTERRAND

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PER E.O. 13526  
2013-04773-M (1.20)  
5/11/2013 KBN

I. SETTING

Overall Bilateral Relations

- o We have a solid relationship with France, based on common values and shared strategic goals.
- o We work closely with France on many issues critical to U.S. interests, including Bosnia, post-war Iraq, Somalia, counter-terrorism, and several hot spots around the world.
- o President Mitterrand was pleased with his March 9 meetings with President Clinton, who spoke of our "global partnership" with France.
- o Despite our strong cooperative relationship, we do have serious differences with France on trade and European security issues.
  - France's protection of its agriculture, key industries, and aviation has led to friction, and its trade positions have delayed successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

Domestic Politics

- o First elected in 1981, President Mitterrand is now in his second seven-year term. Although he enjoyed personal popularity during most of his tenure, his approval rating has slumped over the past two years, largely due to the perception that he is out of touch with domestic concerns.
- o In the March 1993 legislative elections, Mitterrand's Socialist Party was swept out of office by a center-right coalition of the centrist-Europeanist UDF and neo-Gaullist RPR. The new "cohabitation" government is led by Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, a Gaullist moderate.
- o With the 1995 presidential elections on the horizon, the Socialists are in disarray. Key party leader and presidential hopeful Michel Rocard has called for a "big bang" political realignment of the Socialists, reform Communists, and Greens.

French Foreign Policy under Cohabitation

- o So far, Mitterrand and Balladur have worked well together on foreign policy, an area which has long been Mitterrand's "special preserve."
- o Foreign Minister Juppe has indicated that continuity will be the hallmark of French foreign relations under the new government.

- o Balladur and Juppe also have signalled that they would like to improve the tone of U.S.-French relations.
- o Both Balladur and Juppe support continued European unification, and the new government has placed a strengthened Franco-German relationship and European economic growth at the center of its agenda.
- o On the Uruguay Round, the new government is close to French farmers and will remain tough on export subsidies, although Balladur has said he wants GOF policy to be "constructive." Balladur has called for a review of French trade policy and may have announced his government's position on the GATT/UR by the time you meet.

#### Mrs. Mitterrand

- o An international activist, Danielle Mitterrand is known for her strong Socialist convictions.
- o During the past twelve years, she has devoted most of her time to human rights issues, with much of her work being carried out through the France-Libertes Foundation, which she established in 1986.
- o Mrs. Mitterrand is a long-time advocate of the Kurdish and Tibetan peoples and a strong supporter of Haitian President Aristide. She has been actively involved in promoting AIDS prevention programs in Africa and reportedly helped shape France's policy on Indochina.
- o Deeply concerned about social issues, Mrs. Mitterrand will likely ask you about health care reform.
- o Mrs. Mitterrand is in Washington to receive a Human Rights award from the International Human Rights Law Group. She also plans to meet informally with UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali in New York.

## II. KEY ISSUES

### Bilateral Relations

- o You might wish to affirm the importance of the U.S.-French partnership in promoting human rights, peace, and democracy worldwide.

### Cohabitation

- o It would be interesting to get Mrs. Mitterrand's views on how "cohabitation" is working.

Bosnia

- o The French were among the first to contribute troops to the UN peacekeeping force and are major contributors of humanitarian assistance to Bosnia. They have participated actively in the "Provide Promise" airdrops and the Sarajevo airlifts. French aircraft also help monitor and enforce the No-Fly Zone.
- o Mrs. Mitterrand will no doubt be ready to offer her views on the humanitarian crisis in Bosnia and what steps the international community ought to take to resolve it.

Haiti

- o The U.S. and France share the same goals in Haiti: to see constitutional government restored and President Aristide returned to complete his mandate.
- o French support for Aristide has been outspoken and unqualified. They have excused his intransigence when a more balanced attitude would have aided a search for a solution to the crisis.
- o Mrs. Mitterrand has been particularly sympathetic to Aristide, and her views may have helped set the tone for French dealings with him.
  - Both President and Mrs. Mitterrand have had frequent contact with Aristide.

Cuba

- o Mrs. Mitterrand has travelled frequently to Cuba and has called for a lifting of the U.S. trade embargo.
- o We have serious concerns about human rights conditions inside Cuba and the Castro government's failure to take steps toward democracy.

Iraq

- o French leaders support full Iraqi compliance with UN Security Council resolutions, and France continues to contribute fully to all missions, whether political, military, or humanitarian.
- o Baghdad has severed northern Iraq from the Iraqi economy; an international relief assistance program barely supported the population last winter. Future humanitarian prospects are grim.
- o The French are deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in northern Iraq. Mrs. Mitterrand's organization, France-Libertes, backs relief efforts there.

- o In July 1992, while visiting refugee camps in northern Iraq, Mrs. Mitterrand narrowly escaped death in a car-bomb attack on her motorcade.

#### Vietnam

- o France has taken the lead in pressing for normalized political relations between Vietnam and the West. During a February 1993 trip to Vietnam, President Mitterrand solidified France's economic ties to Vietnam and called for a lifting of the U.S. trade embargo.
- o Mrs. Mitterrand's influence on France's Indochina policy has been considerable. In Spring 1991, she visited Cambodia, where she was deeply moved by a "genocide" display, and Vietnam where she was appalled by the poverty. Shortly afterward, President Mitterrand told then-Foreign Minister Dumas to do something about France's "wrong-headed" Indochina policy.
- o U.S. policy towards Vietnam has been linked closely to progress on POW/MIA accounting, which is currently under review.

#### AIDS

- o AIDS is an emotionally charged issue in France. The French public remains outraged at the Socialist government's involvement in distributing HIV-infected blood to its citizens in 1985.
  - Three Socialist ministers were implicated in the blood scandal.
- o In 1992, during Bernard Kouchner's tenure as Minister for Health and Humanitarian Affairs, France instituted a national AIDS awareness and prevention program, which includes clean needle and condom distribution.
  - The Balladur government is expected to continue Kouchner's policies.
- o France is home to the recently-established World Foundation for AIDS, a private research foundation that will focus on research areas not well-funded under publicly financed programs.
- o NIH and France's Pasteur Institute have had a running dispute over the royalties on HIV detection test kits.
  - The French claim that NIH's Dr. Robert Gallo misrepresented his role in the discovery of the cause of AIDS to the detriment of French interests.

- The U.S. patent for the test kit, which was first developed in Dr. Gallo's laboratory, rests on the technology used to develop the kit and not on the actual isolation of the AIDS virus.
- The U.S. believes that a 1987 settlement agreement intended to resolve the dispute still holds.

Aid to Africa

- o France provides food aid and technical assistance to 29 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Its budget for development assistance to Africa in 1992 was estimated at \$3 billion.
- o The U.S. has contributed nearly \$800 million per year in development assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa. Close to half of that assistance has been earmarked for health, natural resources, family planning, and AIDS.
- o In FY 92, U.S. humanitarian assistance to Africa amounted to \$770 million.



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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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May 26, 1993

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526  
2013-0473-M (1.23)  
5/11/2013 KBH

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE  
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

SUBJECT: French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's Request  
for a Meeting with the President

Prime Minister Balladur recently told Embassy Paris he would like to come to Washington in June for pre G-7 meetings with the President, focussed primarily on the GATT/Uruguay Round. Balladur has signalled his government's intention to improve overall relations with the United States and has suggested he would use his visit to defuse the GATT negotiating atmosphere. Balladur also indicated he would like to meet with Secretary Christopher and USTR Kantor.

USTR Kantor endorses a White House meeting with Balladur, but believes we should be clear that any meetings with Balladur on the Uruguay Round not be construed as negotiating sessions. The EC Commission, not member states, negotiates for the twelve. The focus of our Uruguay Round discussions with Balladur should be on France's positions within the EC and should also encourage France to be a positive force for moderation in the Community's deliberations rather than an obstruction.

A White House meeting is consistent with interagency consensus that we work harder with EC capitals to advance our positions on U.S.-EC issues. It would convey that we welcome the improving tone of recent French statements and would provide an opportunity to weigh in with the new French leadership on the Uruguay Round and other bilateral issues. It also will be an important opportunity to make clear U.S. interest in helping France further find its way back into NATO, as well as to coordinate on key security issues, especially containment of the violence in ex-Yugoslavia and nuclear testing policy. To avoid giving the impression that discussions of the Uruguay Round would be negotiating sessions, we would advise Balladur in advance of the broader agenda for his visit.


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In terms of supporting our trade objectives for the G-7 Summit, the best time for a Balladur meeting would be prior to the Trade Ministers' meeting in Tokyo, which is scheduled for the week of June 21. USTR Kantor would be available for meetings with Balladur June 7-14 and June 17-18.

  
for Marc Grossman  
Executive Secretary

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1996

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: Warren Christopher *WC*  
SUBJECT: Your Meeting with President Chirac

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526  
2013-0473-17 (1.26)  
5/11/2018 KRM

President Chirac's visit is an important opportunity to build on recent positive developments in bilateral relations and construct a wide-ranging agenda for cooperation. Chirac has suffered a number of domestic setbacks since taking office. He and his prime minister, Alain Juppe, have failed to make headway against stubbornly high unemployment, and a devastating one-month strike forced Juppe to back away from key budget-cutting reforms. The popularity ratings of both leaders have plummeted. Foreign policy offers Chirac more latitude, and he will look to this visit to affirm France's international stature -- in NATO, in Bosnia, and as a global U.S. partner.

Chirac may suggest several areas for intensified Franco-American collaboration. These include European security; development assistance; crisis areas such as Bosnia, Africa and Haiti; disarmament issues; economic coordination; and fighting international crime, terrorism and drug trafficking. While there are clear points of divergence, this cluster of issues fits sufficiently with our own interests to suggest a basic theme that can be used in both private and public statements to characterize a reinvigorated Franco-American partnership: that stronger global U.S.-French cooperation is an essential motor of the enhanced transatlantic relationship agreed to at the December Madrid Summit. France is not only our oldest ally, it is a partner that shares a global perspective and a willingness to act on that perspective. Franco-American collaboration led to an invigorated multilateral response in Bosnia last July, setting the stage for Dayton. Bosnia, in particular French-American-NATO cooperation in IFOR, provides a visible backdrop to the summit and a positive context for the broader partnership. Your personal endorsement of such cooperation, particularly Chirac's important leadership role last spring and throughout the Bosnia peace process, can smooth the way for closer cooperation in other areas.

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Chirac may present us with the best opportunity to improve France's relationship with NATO since de Gaulle left the NATO integrated structure in 1966. In an era of declining defense budgets and more Bosnia-type operations, Chirac believes France no longer can afford to be absent from NATO's military institutions. We believe the shift in French views is genuine and based on a clear-eyed assessment of French interests. Moreover, the French have repeatedly signaled that they approach these issues pragmatically and are open to a genuine give-and-take.

Chirac will be looking for a positive U.S. commitment to bolster European visibility and effectiveness within the Alliance -- an area of discussion that will spill over into what the U.S. and France should be doing to ensure success in Bosnia. While we need to hold fast to such principles as unity of command, enhanced French participation in NATO is clearly in our interest. Reinforcing Chirac's sense of personal engagement in France's rapprochement with NATO can also set the tone for practical next steps that advance our own interest in reviewing and revising the Alliance's internal structure and operation as a necessary corollary to successful NATO enlargement. You and Chirac should declare your support for a greater, more capable European role and identity within a stronger Alliance as a complement to steady, gradual enlargement, and commit to pursue this agenda actively for the June NATO ministerial meetings.

Public recognition of our broad global cooperation will give new momentum to our efforts in a number of specific areas: addressing more effectively the HIV/AIDS pandemic; creating conflict resolution mechanisms in Africa; developing better bilateral coordination to fight crime, terrorism and drug trafficking; and reforming the UN so as to ensure continuing U.S. support.

On the Middle East, Chirac feels France has been excluded and seeks an expanded French role in the region. He is concerned that a Syria-Israel peace agreement would undermine Lebanese sovereignty and continues to worry about the humanitarian situation in Iraq. France has resisted our efforts to intensify economic pressure on Iran, and is outraged by the secondary boycott aspects of the D'Amato bill, which it sees as illegal under the GATT and WTO and directed specifically at French firms. France has threatened trade retaliation if the D'Amato or similar legislation passes. There are signs, however, that the sanctions threat may be deterring Elf Aquitaine from investing in Iran.

Chirac's visit offers an opportunity to renew our pledge to work together towards a true zero-yield CTBT. Should the French end their nuclear test series as planned

by the end of February, they could help encourage the Chinese to take a productive approach to the CTBT talks. We can also explore ways to advance our interests in nuclear safety at the April Moscow Nuclear Summit.

Another of Chirac's priorities is preparation of the Lyon G-7 Summit. He will focus on development issues, exchange rates and Russia. You might suggest another idea. The G-7 seems very remote to people's lives, and yet domestic society in each of the advanced industrial countries is grappling with the consequences of rapid change. The G-7 thus offers an appropriate framework for a "common agenda" initiative that allows domestic leaders in each society to learn "what works" when coping with fundamental change. This would draw attention to the G-7 Jobs Conference and your own initiatives on vocational training, while giving Chirac an initiative that might resonate domestically.

Last, Chirac sees himself as a special friend of Russia, and may urge that we show understanding for Yeltsin in the run-up to June elections. FM de Charette, coming from a meeting with new Russian FM Primakov, may have insights on Primakov's views on relations with the West.

Chirac will come with his own rhetorical agenda, for which we should be prepared. He will argue that the U.S. must do more to fuel international economic growth, and he will make a case for "exchange rate stability," a popular issue with French exporters who believe we allow the dollar to depreciate to enhance U.S. competitiveness overseas. He will also seek understanding for his nuclear testing program. However, the areas outlined above provide fruitful ground for developing the closer partnership we seek.