
Clinton Presidential Records Mandatory Declassification Review

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February 3, 1993



ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM H. ITOH

THROUGH: JENONNE WALKER

FROM: TONY WAYNE

SUBJECT: French Culture and Education Minister Seeks Meeting with Mrs. Clinton

Jack Lang, French government spokesman and Minister of State for Culture and Education, has requested a meeting with Mrs. Clinton on February 11 or 12. His rationale is to discuss French ~~ALOS~~ education programs for children. However, we are told that the French Health Minister and Foreign Minister opposed his meeting request in private and that the French embassy does not think it is appropriate. We and State agree that Lang's rationale for the meeting is very weak and should be declined. (A Grossman-Itoh to this effect is being prepared at State.) We suspect that Lang's request is driven by a desire to be the first French Minister received at the White House. We have prepared a memo to the First Lady's scheduling office outlining the request and suggesting that it be declined.

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the attached memo to Mrs. Clinton's scheduling office.

Approve *R* Disapprove

Attachments
Tab I Memo to Patti Solis

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2013-0473-M
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

February 6, 1993

ACTION

SIGNED

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM H. ITOH

THROUGH: JENONNE WALKER

FROM: TONY WAYNE

SUBJECT: French Culture and Education Minister Seeks Meeting with Mrs. Clinton

Jack Lang, French government spokesman and Minister of State for Culture and Education, has requested a meeting with Mrs. Clinton on February 11 or 12. His rationale is to discuss French AIDS education programs for children. However, we are told that the French Health Minister and Foreign Minister opposed his meeting request in private and that the French embassy does not think it is appropriate. We and State agree that Lang's rationale for the meeting is very weak and should be declined. (A Grossman-Itoh to this effect is being prepared at Sate.) We suspect that Lang's request is driven by a desire to be the first French Minister received at the White House. We have prepared a memo to the First Lady's scheduling office outlining the request and suggesting that it be declined.

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Approve Disapprove

Attachments

Tab I Memo to Patti Solis

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

February 8, 1993

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MEMORANDUM FOR PATTI SOLIS

FROM: WILLIAM H. ITOH *W*

SUBJECT: Meeting Request from French Culture and Education Minister

Jack Lang, French Minister of State for Culture and Education and government spokesman, has requested a meeting with the First Lady on the afternoon of February 11 or on February 12. He would like to discuss AIDS education in French schools. Lang intends to travel to the U.S. with a group of French school children and would propose to bring with him the French Professor who claims to have discovered the AIDS virus. (We have a dispute with the French over this. We believe a U.S. professor first discovered the virus.)

Though this is an important issue, we recommend that the First Lady decline the request citing her current focus on health care reform and that we suggest that Lang call on the Secretary of Education and others in the Administration. Lang does not have responsibility for public health in France and we understand that the Public Health and Foreign Ministers seriously questioned in private Lang's plans to seek this appointment.

If you have any further questions on this issue please call Tony Wayne in our European Affairs office at ext. 5646. We look forward to hearing your decision on this request so we can inform the French. Many thanks.

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TALKING POINTS

Bilateral Relations

- o The U.S.-French friendship has always been based on shared values: In the post-Cold War world, our partnership is more important than ever.
- o We need to work together to promote human rights, peace, and democracy worldwide.

Cohabitation

- o Press reports seems to indicate that cohabitation is going smoothly. How do you view it?

U.S. Health Care Reform

- o (Brief Mrs. Mitterrand on your ongoing efforts to reform health care in America.)
- o What aspects of France's national health care system have worked best?

Bosnia

- o We applaud France's efforts to improve the humanitarian situation in the former Yugoslavia.
- o What is your assessment of the humanitarian situation? Are we making a difference?

Haiti

- o I know we share the same goals in Haiti: to see constitutional government restored and President Aristide returned to complete his mandate.

Cuba

- o We urge all democratic nations to encourage Cuba to build democracy and improve its human rights record.
- o The reason for the deteriorating economy in Cuba is not the U.S. embargo but Castro's failure to take steps to reform the system.

Iraq

- o Our resolve to ensure full Iraqi compliance with all UN Security Council resolutions remains strong. We value the close partnership France has extended in that effort.
- o We believe the humanitarian situation in northern Iraq remains precarious and that the donor community must address long-term relief issues in the area.

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- o The UN is over-taxed. The U.S., France and other key allies will need to keep a firm hand on relief operations in northern Iraq to ensure success.

Vietnam

- o POW/MIA accounting is a sensitive issue for the American people and must be given careful consideration.
- o The U.S. is reviewing its policy toward Vietnam. I am sure we will want to inform France of our conclusions, once that process is complete.
- o I was heartened to learn that France has called for political reforms and human rights improvements in Vietnam.

Aid to Africa

- o Africa will continue to receive high-level attention in Washington.
 - National Security Advisor Tony Lake laid out the Administration's policy in a recent speech.
- o The U.S. has provided substantial development assistance and humanitarian relief to Africa.
- o In addition to promoting economic development, U.S. assistance to Africa is used to build democratic institutions, which we believe are important foundations for sustainable growth.

AIDS

- o I can appreciate the depth of feeling this issue has aroused in France.
- o We must do everything we can to promote AIDS awareness and education worldwide.
- o Is the new government continuing the clean needle and condom distribution programs instituted by former Minister Kouchner?

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May 12, 1993

MEETING WITH
DANIELLE MITTERRAND, SPOUSE OF FRENCH PRESIDENT
FRANCOIS MITTERRAND

DATE: May 13, 1993
LOCATION: Residence
TIME: 11:00 am

I. PURPOSE

To promote relations with France and learn of Mrs. Mitterrand's international and domestic priorities. To urge French support for a UN investigation of Iraqi war crimes.

II. BACKGROUND

Danielle Mitterrand is known for her strong Socialist convictions and her international activism. Since Francois Mitterrand was elected President twelve years ago, she has devoted much of her time to human rights issues. In 1986, she established a humanitarian organization, France-Libertes Foundation, to carry out many of her projects. (It has about 20 staff members and 45 support committees around France.) She will, no doubt, brief you on its activities.

Mrs. Mitterrand is in Washington to receive a Human Rights award from the International Human Rights Law Group on Thursday evening. (Two Kurdish leaders have traveled to Washington to help present the award to Mrs. Mitterrand. Attorney General Reno will be the featured speaker and presenter at the ceremony.) She also plans to meet informally with UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali in New York during her visit.

Danielle Mitterrand is a long-time advocate of the rights of the Kurdish and Tibetan peoples. She is also a strong supporter of exiled Haitian President Aristide. Rigoberta Menchu, the Guatemalan activist who won the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, received support early on from Mrs. Mitterrand. She has promoted AIDS prevention programs in Africa and reportedly helped shape France's policy on Indochina, which includes opening to Vietnam. Mrs. Mitterrand is also interested in social issues at home and will likely ask you about health care reform.

U.S.-French Relations: We have a solid relationship with France, based on common values and shared strategic goals.

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That relationship is often frayed at the edges, however, by France's efforts to assert international leadership over what Paris at times perceives as U.S. hegemony. Nevertheless, Franco-American cooperation is important for many critical issues, including Bosnia, post-war Iraq, Somalia, counter-terrorism, and other hot spots around the world. President Mitterrand was pleased with his March 9 meeting with President Clinton. The President has spoken with him at least three times since then on Bosnia and Russia.

Despite our strong cooperative relationship, we have had serious differences with France on trade and European security issues. France's protection of its agriculture, key industries and aviation has led to friction. France's desire to protect its farmers and its "rural heritage" has delayed resolution of U.S.-EC differences on the GATT Uruguay Round and still threatens to block a successful conclusion of the world trade talks (which we hope to achieve by the end of the year). On European security issues, the French have been at pains to demonstrate their independence from U.S. dominance since de Gaulle pulled French forces out of the NATO integrated military command in the mid-1960s. France is still leading the push for a more independent European defense capability, but differences are narrowing on both sides.

Domestic Politics: 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, due to the perception that he is out of touch with domestic concerns, to an unemployment rate of almost 11% and to corruption scandals in the government.

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. (In the wake of that defeat, the last Socialist Prime Minister and close Mitterrand associate, Pierre Beregovoy, committed suicide, setting off a wave of introspection in France about whether the press is too tough on politicians.) The new "cohabitation" government is led by Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, a Gaullist moderate.

With the 1995 Presidential elections on the horizon, the Socialists are in disarray, and Mitterrand is reflecting on whether there is any way he can help put his political allies back into the running. 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: So far, Mitterrand and Balladur have worked well together on foreign policy, an area which has long been Mitterrand's "special

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preserve." Foreign Minister Juppe has indicated that continuity will be the hallmark of French foreign relations under the new government. But he and Balladur have also signalled that they would like to improve the tone of U.S.-French relations.

The French government continues to support the process of European unification, and has placed the Franco-German relationship and European economic growth at the center of its agenda. As noted above, the new government is close to French farmers and will remain tough on agricultural trade issues in the Uruguay Round, although Balladur has said he wants French policy to be "constructive." Balladur is expected soon to announce a government position on the Uruguay Round soon.

Key Issues -- Bilateral Relations: You might wish to affirm the importance of the U.S.-French partnership in promoting human rights, peace and democracy worldwide.

Cohabitation: It would be interesting to get Mrs. Mitterrand's views on how "cohabitation" is working and the role which the President now plays.

Bosnia: The French were among the first to contribute troops to the UN peacekeeping force (with 4,500 troops in UNPROFOR) and are major contributors of humanitarian assistance to Bosnia. They have participated in our airdrop efforts and the Sarajevo airlifts. French aircraft also help monitor and enforce the No-Fly Zone. 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: The U.S. and France share the same goals in Haiti to see constitutional government restored and President Aristide returned to complete his mandate. French support for Aristide has been outspoken and unqualified. Mrs. Mitterrand has been particularly sympathetic to Aristide, and her views may have helped set the tone for French dealings with him. The UN and the Organization of American States, with strong U.S. backing, are engaged in an intense effort to resolve the Haiti crisis. The French are working with us and other UN members to gain Security Council support for deploying a multilateral police force to Haiti to deter violence during the transition to democracy and Aristide's return.

Cuba: Mrs. Mitterrand has travelled frequently to Cuba and talks fondly of Castro. She favors lifting of the U.S. trade embargo, which she views as an "international injustice." We have serious concerns about human rights conditions inside Cuba and the Castro government's failure to take steps toward democracy.

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Iraq: 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. 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. Mrs. Mitterrand's organization, France-Libertes, backs relief efforts for the Kurds in northern Iraq. In July 1992, while visiting refugee camps in northern Iraq, Mrs. Mitterrand narrowly escaped death in a car-bomb attack on her motorcade, which is thought to have been engineered by either the Iraqi or Iranian government. Paris has been reluctant to support the President's plan to set up a UN commission to investigate Iraq's war crimes and crimes against humanity, including Kurdish genocide. You should solicit Mrs. Mitterrand's help.

Vietnam: France has taken the lead in pressing for normalized political and economic 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. Mrs. Mitterrand's influence on France's Indochina policy has been considerable. In the spring of 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. U.S. policy toward Vietnam, including our economic embargo, has been linked closely to progress on POW/MIA accounting, which is currently under review.

AIDS: AIDS is an emotionally charged issue in France. The French public remains outraged by the Socialist government's involvement in distributing HIV-infected blood to its citizens in 1985. Three Socialist ministers were implicated in the blood scandal. 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. 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.

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. However, 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

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that a 1987 settlement agreement intended to resolve the dispute still holds.

Aid to Africa: 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. 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. In FY 92, U.S. humanitarian assistance to Africa amounted to \$770 million.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Danielle Mitterrand, Ambassador Jacques Andreani and Raphael Doueb (Vice President, France-Liberties Foundation)

Hillary Clinton, Tony Wayne (Director for Western Europe, NSC) and State Department interpreter

Attachments

- Tab A Talking Points
- Tab B Biographies

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POINTS TO BE MADE FOR MEETING WITH
DANIELLE MITTERRAND, SPOUSE OF FRENCH PRESIDENT
FRANCOIS MITTERRAND

Bilateral Relations

- The U.S.-friendship has always been based on shared values. In the post-Cold War world, our partnership is more important than ever.
- We need to work together to promote human rights, peace and democracy worldwide.

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- (Brief Mrs. Mitterrand on your efforts to reform health care.)
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- We applaud France's efforts to improve the humanitarian situation in the former Yugoslavia.
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Iraq

- Our resolve to ensure full Iraqi compliance with all UN Security Council resolutions remains strong. We value the close partnership France has extended in that effort.
- We believe the humanitarian situation for the Kurds in northern Iraq remains precarious and that the donor community must address long-term relief issues in the area.
- We need French support in the UN to create a UN Commission to investigate Iraq's war crimes and Iraq's crimes against its own people, especially the Kurds. I hope we can count on your help.

Vietnam

- POW/MIA accounting is a sensitive issue for the American people and must be given careful consideration.
- The U.S. is reviewing its policy toward Vietnam. I am sure we will want to inform France of our conclusions once that process is complete.
- I was heartened to learn that France has called for political reforms and human rights improvements in Vietnam.

Aid to Africa

- Africa will continue to receive high-level attention in Washington.
- National Security Advisor Tony Lake laid out the Administration's policy on Africa in his first speech since assuming office -- a sign that we will not neglect Africa.
- The U.S. has provided substantial development assistance and humanitarian relief to Africa. U.S. assistance to Africa is also used to build democratic institutions, which we believe are important foundations for sustainable growth.

AIDS

- I can appreciate the depth of feeling this issue has aroused in France.
- We must do everything we can to promote AIDS awareness and education worldwide.
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

May 27, 1993

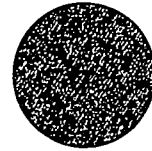
ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE *for* *OK* *JWR*

THROUGH: JENONNE WALKER *JW*

FROM: CRAIG KELLY *CK*

SUBJECT: Whether to Recommend a Presidential Meeting with French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur



Prime Minister Balladur has requested a June meeting with the President, Secretary Christopher and USTR Kantor to discuss the Uruguay Round and other issues before the G-7 summit. (The French have not announced whether Balladur will attend the summit along with Mitterrand, but GOF officials assume he will.) Ambassador Harriman has raised Balladur's request directly with the President and Sandy Berger. *Harriman told us that the President agreed.*

A meeting with Balladur would allow the President to reiterate that an Uruguay Round agreement this year will provide a critical boost to world economic growth, and that the Tokyo summit is a good opportunity for the G-7 to help get the Geneva talks back on track by reaching broad agreement on a big market access package. While we need to make clear that a meeting with Balladur is not a negotiation on Uruguay Round issues (the EC negotiates for member states), it is our policy to work bilaterally with EC countries to underline our GATT positions.

Balladur has supported trade liberalization and called for an "armistice" in U.S.-French trade relations, but so far the improved tone has not translated into flexibility on France's approach to agricultural issues. Still, Balladur is very sensitive to the need to boost economic growth. On May 26, he announced a sweeping privatization plan to spur France's sluggish economy, challenging French dogma about the centrality of state-owned firms to the national interest. The President could make a powerful argument that an Uruguay Round accord serves France's -- and the world's -- need for trade-driven economic revitalization. To maximize the effect of a meeting with Balladur, it would be best to schedule it before the June 24 Trade Ministers' meeting in Tokyo, which will try to forge agreement on how to handle the Round at the summit. So far, the French have been hesitant about an announcement on market access by the G-7 leaders.

There are, of course, other critical issues that the President would want to discuss with Balladur: Bosnia, Pan Am 103, aid to Russia, nuclear testing and commercial space launches. We should

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Harriman told me about this meeting

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bill the meeting as a review of major bilateral issues, to avoid the impression that Balladur is coming to Washington to negotiate on the Uruguay Round.

Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe have sought to put a positive public spin on U.S.-French relations. Even on the prickly issue of NATO, the Balladur government has sent signals that it wishes to expand the cautious "rapprochement" launched by the previous government. A presidential meeting with Balladur would show that we welcome the improved tone from Paris, even while we continue to speak forcefully on areas of disagreement.

Concurrences: Tony *Wayne*, Barry Lowenkron, Mike Froman

RECOMMENDATION

That you recommend a meeting between the President and Prime Minister Balladur.

Approve *R* Disapprove _____

revis memo

Attachments

- Tab I Schedule Proposal
- Tab II State Department/USTR Recommendation

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
January 31, 1996

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MEETING WITH
FRENCH PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC

DATE: February 1, 1996
LOCATION: Oval Office/Cabinet Room
TIME: 3:10 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE
LAURA TYSON & DT

I. KEY OBJECTIVES

NATO Adaptation: To welcome the French decision to move closer to NATO and agree to begin building a stronger European defense identity within NATO, without making concessions on NATO's structure.

NATO Enlargement/Russia: To convince Chirac that gradual progress toward NATO enlargement, without derailing Russian reform, is necessary for Central/Eastern European stability.

Bosnia: To underscore U.S. and French leadership remain critical to peace implementation; to urge more generous European contribution to reconstruction than the 1/3 favored by Chirac.

Iran, Iraq, Libya: To press Chirac to take effective actions to counter unacceptable international behavior.

G-7: To broaden Chirac's proposed agenda for the next G-7 Summit from development aid only to include a discussion of development more broadly defined; to explain why we do not favor managing exchange rate swings.

Africa: To agree to work together in an area where we each have significant influence.

II. CONTEXT OF MEETING

Chirac still must determine how to reduce France's budget deficit from 5 percent to 3 percent of GDP by 1997. This is a key Maastricht Treaty criterion for European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), and popular opposition to even modest cuts in France's social programs remains intense. If he cannot meet the criteria (and if Germany will not agree to

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relax them), France will be responsible for derailing the further integration of Europe.

Chirac ran on a platform of cutting France's chronically high unemployment (around 11 percent), but his program is unlikely to make a significant dent in the next 18 months. The grim employment picture has made the French more sensitive about losing big export orders. Many in France think the U.S. defense industry unfairly snagged some of the big contracts of the past few years.

Chirac needs a successful visit to refurbish his stature at home as an international leader; he needs to be seen as meeting you on an equal footing and to have French positions, especially on NATO, addressed seriously.

III. AGENDA

Your restricted meeting with Chirac provides an opportunity to discuss G-7 cooperation on political and global issues, including Russia's role. France is the current G-7 president and will host the next summit in Lyons in June. We are particularly interested in enhancing P-8 and bilateral cooperation on crime, terrorism and narcotics. You should also underscore our continued support for G-7 leadership in reforming the UN.

Chirac would prefer to discuss nuclear testing in the smaller meeting. This is also the time to raise satellite imagery cooperation. Chirac may choose to raise some G-7 and other economic issues.

NATO Adaptation: At the December 5 NAC Ministerial, the Chirac government announced its intention to rejoin some key NATO military bodies and to seek to build a stronger European defense identity within NATO. The French have not yet revealed how far they are prepared to go in this regard. Thus far, they have rejoined the NATO Military Committee and will now regularly attend meetings of Defense Ministers, but they have said that they have no intention of returning French forces to the integrated military structure.

The French have told us they want NATO's adaptation to be the major theme for the summit. Chirac would like a public commitment from you to begin a process at NATO aimed at strengthening the European defense identity. Our challenge will be to ensure that any changes in NATO structures and procedures preserve key U.S. political and military equities.

You should welcome French efforts to move closer to NATO and agree to join with President Chirac in launching a process of adaptation aimed at establishing a greater European profile inside the Alliance, without altering NATO's structure. Immediately after the summit, Bill Perry will meet with his French, British and German counterparts to shape the process.

NATO Enlargement: The French believe the United States is pressing NATO enlargement forward too quickly, particularly given the strong Russian opposition. They have hinted that enlargement should be slowed to match the pace of building a stronger European role in NATO. We believe that slowing the process of engagement would send a chill through Central and Eastern Europe and jeopardize reforms. While no decisions are required until December, we need to press forward with the intensive consultations with aspiring partners agreed to at the last NAC ministerial.

Bosnia Peace Implementation: IFOR implementation is going very well. France's deployment of 7,500 troops to the French sector of southern Bosnia is complete. There are an additional 4,500 French troops at sea or in Italy.

Chirac may urge that we refrain from publicly criticizing High Representative Carl Bildt, who got off to a slow start on civilian implementation. You can reassure Chirac that we agree Bildt is now making better progress.

Bosnia Reconstruction: At the December donor conference, the United States pledged \$62.7 million of the \$523 million pledged for immediate needs in the first quarter of 1996. Total needs over three years are estimated at \$5.1 billion, of which \$3 billion would come from individual donors. Your goal here is to make Chirac understand that France's formula for sharing costs -- 1/3 from the EU, 1/3 from the U.S. and 1/3 from others -- is not realistic in our current budget climate and given our large military contribution.

FRY Recognition: We have been unable to persuade France and other Allies to delay normalization of relations with Belgrade. We believe this could undermine our leverage to secure Milosevic's cooperation with the War Crimes Tribunal and solve Kosovo. You should urge Chirac to pause while Dayton implementation is still unfolding.

G-7 Economic Issues: Chirac may raise France's proposal to focus the Lyons summit exclusively on development aid. Our view is that any discussion of development should have a

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broader focus, to include, for instance, environment and population. Chirac may think that focussing the Summit on aid would put pressure on the U.S. to make good on its commitments to the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA). Chirac may also raise France's perennial preference for a more managed exchange rate system. Chirac mistakenly believes that a "weak" dollar contributed to the fact that French export growth was less than half ours over the last decade. Bob Rubin has sent you a memorandum that addresses this issue (Tab C).

Middle East: France wants to remain a key player in the region and envies U.S. leadership. Of particular concern to Chirac, with his close ties to Maronite Christians, will be the full independence of Lebanon in any final settlement. Peres is closer to the French than was Rabin and is likely to involve them more in regional matters. Peres recently said that France is prepared to participate in an eventual multinational force on the Golan Heights. France is unlikely to agree to support the Middle East Development Bank until Germany drops its opposition and they see some indication that we will actually come through with money.

Iran, Iraq, Libya, Algeria: On Iran, France joins the EU "critical dialogue" that seeks to change Iranian behavior through engagement, an approach we see as a proven failure. You should explain our opposition to economic support for Iran as long as the government diverts resources to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

France respects the UN sanctions against Iraq but is prepared to lift them as soon as Iraq complies with the UN resolutions on weapons of mass destruction. Chirac may express France's support for implementation of Resolution 986, which would allow sales of Iraqi oil to buy humanitarian supplies. You should tell Chirac that we are not opposed as long as the resolution is not amended.

Algeria is probably France's top foreign policy concern. Five million people of North African descent live in France, which raises concerns about Islamist extremist violence as well as possible refugee flows if the situation deteriorates further. We agree with Chirac's government that President Zeroual must continue to pursue dialogue and a political settlement.

D'Amato Bill/Kennedy Amendment: The most contentious issue in the U.S.-French relationship at present is the pending legislation that would impose sanctions against firms that

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invest in the oil and gas sectors in Iran and Libya. The D'Amato bill on Iran was modified at Administration request and now would affect only one European company, France's petroleum giant, Total. The Kennedy Amendment would require the same sanctions against firms working in Libya. The best way to stave off this amendment is to show we can get additional sanctions through the Security Council. You proposed this approach to Chirac before the amendment appeared. He said no, but the context has changed. Chirac will argue strongly against U.S. "unilateralism" in seeking to impose its policies on its allies. You should explain the goals of the pending legislation, indicate it has overwhelming support in Congress and seek French support for extended sanctions on Libya as the best alternative to U.S. unilateral action.

Africa: We often find our efforts in Africa to be at odds with those of France. We could do much to advance our key policy objectives by improved cooperation with France in such places as Nigeria, Burundi, Sudan and Liberia. Chirac may resist more than a rhetorical nod to enhanced cooperation, fearing that it may dilute France's influence in Africa.

We also want to disabuse Chirac of the notion the United States is abandoning Africa. He struck this theme publicly last summer during his trip to Africa and has frequently criticized cuts in U.S. aid to Africa, portraying us as a fair-weather friend of recipient countries.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Welcoming Ceremony -- full coverage
Still Photo at top of expanded meeting
Press availability following expanded meeting
Pool spray during toast at State dinner

V. SEQUENCE

The sequence of events is outlined at Tab D.

Attachments

- Tab A Points to be Made
- Tab B Memorandum from the Secretary of State
- Tab C Memorandum from the Secretary of the Treasury
- Tab D Scenario
- Tab E Questions and Answers

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT CHIRAC OF FRANCE

OVAL OFFICE/RESTRICTED MEETING

Chirac may ask about prospects for U.S. elections.

G-7 Political/Global Issues

Russia

- Understand you told Yeltsin his role in Lyons will be same as in Halifax. Agree completely with this approach.
- Also agree we should consult in June between rounds of Russian elections, should no candidate win 50% of vote on June 16.
- [If raised]: Don't believe Russia ready for full "G-8" membership, but could consider other gestures in June.
- Foreign Minister de Charette (shar ETT) [will be present] recently met Foreign Minister Primakov. Secretary Christopher meets Primakov for first time February 10-11. What are your impressions of Primakov's foreign policy approach?
- Results of December Parliamentary elections, resignation of prominent officials and violence in Chechnya cause concern. Must work together to ensure reaction to these events is not exaggerated.
- Yeltsin told me last Friday he is committed to reform. Obviously, have to follow actions but should not assume worst.
- Expect some elevated rhetoric in run-up to June ballot. Unless we see changes in policy, will continue our support for reform and engagement.

Fight Against Terrorism, Crime, Drugs

- Urge you to lead way on actions G-7 can take against crime to give substance to declaration at Lyons. Want to carry dialogue on crime into U.S. G-7 presidency in 1997.
- See scope for cooperation regionally; e.g., in Caribbean and in multilateral organizations like Dublin Group. U.S.-EU cooperation could be enhanced by bilateral cooperation.
- Would like French support in UN for Citizens Security Charter I proposed at last fall's UNGA, to build wide international cooperation in combating international crime.

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- Need to work together to combat international crime threat to emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe.

UN Reform

- Should push ahead the work we launched at Halifax on UN and IFI reform, to be sure they use effectively the resources they have.
- Support greater integration and coordination of UN's development efforts.
- [If raised]: Do not see merit in recent EU reform proposal; does not go far enough to reduce U.S. assessment for peacekeeping. Cannot support sanctions in case of late payment.

Nuclear Summit

- Want to continue to consult closely in run-up to Moscow Nuclear Summit in April.
- Saw Chernomyrdin Tuesday; encouraged him to move on START II and CTBT to assure Summit's success.
- Need to push for specific actions to fill out agenda between now and April.

Nuclear Testing

- Welcomed your decision to conclude French testing; will give big boost to our efforts to conclude a zero yield CTBT we can sign this fall.
- Hope you will urge other nuclear weapons nations to be flexible so we can reach a true "zero-yield" treaty.
- Hope we can move early to sign, with Britain, South Pacific Nuclear Weapons Free Zone protocols (Treaty of Rarotonga).

Satellite Imagery Cooperation

- John Deutch and Peter Tarnoff have reported to me on discussions in Paris this week on satellite reconnaissance.
- While we had hoped for broad-gauged cooperation with you and Germans, believe there is scope for more limited forms of cooperation. Hope to continue our discussions on possible areas.

Middle East [if raised]

- Agree with need to promote regional integration and development in tandem with peace process.
- Suggest our Ministers work on details.

UN Secretary General [If raised]

- Not yet ready to make a commitment on U.S. support for any candidate. (*Note:* France favors a second term for Boutros-Ghali, who is a friend of Chirac's.)

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CABINET ROOM/EXPANDED MEETINGGlobal Partnership

- France and U.S. together in our global perspective and willingness to act when necessary. Scope of meeting agenda testifies to our global perspective.
- Strong U.S.-French partnership gives impetus to New Transatlantic Agenda agreed at December U.S.-EU summit.

NATO Adaptation*Introductory Points*

- Welcome your historic decision to move closer to NATO. Believe this will further process of adapting NATO to post-Cold War world as agreed at 1994 summit.
- History has shown U.S. security/prosperity inextricably linked to security/stability/prosperity of Europe. Paid price twice this century for absence from European affairs.
- Determined to remain fully engaged in Europe. Current operation in Bosnia is affirmation of this commitment.
- U.S. consistent champion of European integration. In this context, support building stronger European defense identity within NATO on basis of principle of "separable but not separate."
- Believe increasing capability of European members to act *within NATO framework* when appropriate -- as you proposed -- strengthens Alliance. Increased burdensharing will help us with Congress in sustaining U.S. commitment to Europe.

Next Steps on Adaptation

- Will work closely with you in shaping details of increased European role. Could take number of forms depending on degree of French participation.
- In building more prominent European identity within NATO, must preserve Alliance unity and cohesion, avoid duplication of effort and enhance NATO military capabilities.
- Convinced more visible European element in NATO can be constructed while maintaining basic NATO command structure and preserving integrated military structure.

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- While prepared to show flexibility in working through process, want to underscore several points (General Shali raised with French counterpart this past weekend):
 - Based on Bosnia experience, important U.S. involved in crisis planning. Shouldn't treat U.S. as last resort, called on only when European efforts fail.
 - But there may be cases U.S. chooses not to participate. In those cases, European allies still able to use Alliance assets. This is basic premise of CJTF.
 - In those circumstances, American personnel assigned to NATO headquarters would almost certainly remain in position and support operation.
- Bosnia has shown strength, flexibility of Alliance; should be point of departure in further adaptation of NATO to enhance European role and capabilities.
- Suggest our experts begin discussions bilaterally and with key allies aimed at developing NATO work program. Hope we have some results to announce this June at Berlin NAC Ministerial.
- As first step, should move quickly to reach agreement on CJTF.
- Prepared to join with you in hailing decision to move forward in our public remarks.

(If Chirac makes specific proposal on how to enhance European military element at NATO, e.g., by altering command structure.)

- Purpose here is to give political impetus to process. Should leave work on substance to our experts.
- Assure you we will give any French proposals serious consideration. Will have ideas of our own also.
- Prepared to be flexible, but will be guided by certain principles: maintaining unity of command, preserving integrated military structure, avoiding duplication of effort and preserving Alliance unity and cohesion.
- But strongly believe we can find common ground in building distinctively European element or would not have agreed to undertake effort.

(If Chirac proposes establishing a European political caucus at NATO)

- Makes sense European Allies would have special relationship to any European military element in NATO. Details need to be worked out.
- But strongly oppose formal European caucus in NATO. Convinced it would undermine give-and-take spirit that is hallmark of consultations and erode Alliance unity and cohesion.

NATO Enlargement

- Outreach to emerging democracies through Partnership for Peace and enlargement also part of adaptation process.
- Enlargement key to locking in democratic and market-economy reforms. Essential element in NATO adapting to post-Cold War world.
- Pleased with progress, but must keep momentum going.
- Need to press forward with second phase agreed at December NAC ministerial -- intensive bilateral consultations with aspiring members.
- Not seeking decisions at June NAC Ministerial; sensitive to impact on Russian elections. But agreed to assess progress next December and consider way forward.
- NATO enlargement process should proceed as agreed so we are ready for decision on next steps -- perhaps to invite first group to begin accession talks -- in December or in early 1997. Believe this is realistic timetable.
- Need to continue efforts to establish substantive NATO-Russia relationship. Hope IFOR experience helps.
- Must be sensitive to Russia concerns, but NATO should not slow down enlargement in reaction to Russian opposition.
- Would send chill through Central and Eastern Europe, possibly threatening reforms. Would encourage Russia to continue active opposition rather than come to grips with enlargement.
- Would seriously damage NATO credibility and fuel charges we caved to Russian pressure.
- Instead, essential to continue on steady, deliberate course. Need support of France.

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[If Chirac suggests slowing NATO enlargement down to match pace of EU enlargement]

- Agree EU enlargement also critical to European integration and stability. Strongly support it.
- But these are separate processes with own logic. EU must decide for itself how quickly to enlarge; appears process could take considerable time. Therefore, do not think two should be linked.

[If Chirac links moving forward on enlargement to progress in building an enhanced European defense identify in NATO]

- Agree both elements part of adapting NATO to post-Cold War world, but each stands or falls on its own merits.
- Enlargement will help lock in democratic reforms and complete process of European integration interrupted by Cold War.
- Building up European element in NATO reflects reduced threat, new missions and need for greater burdensharing.
- Need to actively pursue both but should not hold one hostage to the other.

Bosnia

- Before we begin, want to thank President Chirac for decision to bestow Legion of Honor on Bob Frasure, Nelson Drew and Joe Kruzel. Deeply touched by your gesture.

Implementation

- Making good progress in implementing Dayton accords, but coming weeks and months critical to keep Dayton on track. France and U.S. must work together to keep pressure on all sides for full implementation.
- Military aspects going smoothly. Admiral Smith briefed me Monday. Optimistic parties will complete withdrawal from territory for transfer by Saturday's deadline.
- French forces doing excellent job, working well with NATO colleagues.
- Our joint political efforts to smooth transition in Sarajevo have helped ease tensions there. While many Serbs may leave, Bosnian amnesty and steps like multi-ethnic police force could convince thousands to remain.

- Fully support efforts of High Representative Carl Bildt. His mission is critical to success.
- Ask France to consider raising its commitment to police task force to 200 members.
- Glad we agree on importance of IFOR assisting Tribunal. Hope all IFOR forces will detain indicted persons they encounter.

Reconstruction

- Pleased with results of December donors meeting in reaching World Bank goal of some \$500 million in commitments for first quarter of 1996.
- Look forward to March pledging conference; consulting with Congress on USG package of approximately \$600 million in reconstruction funding over several years.
- Do not believe 1/3-1/3-1/3 formula is useful approach; rather, essential donors be prepared to contribute what they can to meet needs in Bosnia. Plan to engage to maximum extent possible.
- Will continue to emphasize linkage between Parties' fulfillment of commitments from Dayton (human rights, elections, full cooperation with War Crimes Tribunal) and willingness of USG to commit financial resources. Urge other donors to follow similar approach to conditionality.

FRY Recognition

- One last issue: Urge you not to go forward immediately with recognition of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia-Montenegro). Will diminish our leverage on Belgrade to cooperate with War Crimes Tribunal and to resolve Kosovo.

G-7 Economic Issues

Development

- Think that Lyons Summit should have broader focus than just development aid. (U.S. budget makes it difficult to provide new resources. Unlikely any G-7 country in position to pledge greater aid levels.)
- Summit should address development, but in broader context, including environment and population. Summit should also address issues of urgency for our people -- employment issues, crime and terrorism.

- Inviting heads of World Bank, IMF and UN to Leaders' session interferes with our ability to talk among ourselves on variety of issues.
- Perhaps we could invite them to a lunch devoted to development and institutional reform issues.

[If Chirac suggests special Summit session -- possibly an additional day -- on development aid]

- Summit on development aid would create unrealistic expectations; perhaps a special meeting at ministerial level would be preferable.

Monetary Issues [if raised]

- Don't want to boost further importance attached to exchange rates, lest we face choice between raising interest rates or not doing what we promised in exchange rates.
- In any case, today's capital flows make efforts to peg exchange rates futile. Cutting deficits and rationalizing spending, as we both are doing, best way governments can help make this reality.
- Exchange rate developments reasonably favorable since last spring; this is not time to contemplate change in approach.
- [If raised]: Worth giving ample attention to supervision of derivatives, as agreed at Halifax.

Trade/Competition Issues [if raised]

- We do not manipulate value of dollar for commercial advantage.
- Government procurement should be based on fair competition; selections made on basis of price and quality.

Middle East Peace Process

- Tremendous progress on core Arab-Israeli issue; goal remains comprehensive peace between Israel and her neighbors, including independent, sovereign Lebanon.
- Talks between Israel and Syria showing progress.
- Conference on Aid to Palestinians in Paris gave real boost to Palestinian economic efforts. What are EU's plans in context of its Mediterranean initiative?
- Urge you to consider France joining Middle East Development Bank -- modest investment with huge returns for peace process.

Iraq

- Will not accept any change to sanctions regime until Iraq complies with all its UNSC obligations. Recent revelations about Iraq's weapons programs leave us more convinced than ever this is correct position.
- Share your concern regarding current difficult humanitarian conditions in Iraq. Resolution 986 is fair way to address problem. Iraq should accept 986 as written.

Iran

- Iran's support of terrorism and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction threaten global community. Inappropriate to provide economic benefits to government diverting scarce resources to these activities.
- "Fatwa" (death sentence) against Rushdie still stands -- no clearer evidence of regime's nature.
- EU's "critical dialogue" would be more effective if accompanied by serious economic pressure. At minimum, ask you to refrain from offering new credits or generating new investment in Iran. Otherwise, Iran sees your approach as business as usual.

Sanctions Legislation Against Iran and Libya (D'Amato Bill/ Kennedy Amendment) [If raised]

- Worked with Hill to shape legislation on Iran to give me flexibility to apply sanctions to fit circumstances and avoid contravening our legal obligations. Not deliberately directed against France or Total.
- D'Amato bill has overwhelming (veto-proof) support in Congress. Working with House to fend off the Libya Amendment.
- Surest way to head off amendment is to get stronger sanctions in Security Council. Wrote you with proposal for new sanction on oil-related equipment. Understand you have concerns about this approach.
- Urge you to reconsider proposal or would welcome your ideas for expanding Security Council sanctions.
- At minimum, need to ensure existing sanctions strictly enforced.
- Should not underestimate what we accomplish by working together.

Algeria

- Share French view that Algerian crisis requires political solution.
- President Zeroual's election represents opportunity to move process of national reconciliation forward.
- Appreciate your thoughts on prospects for meaningful reconciliation and possibility of legislative elections.

Africa*Cooperation in Africa [if raised]*

- Deeply committed to promoting peace, democracy and sustainable development in Africa. Will not allow commitment to wane, even as we struggle with diminished foreign assistance funds.
- Our collective ability to promote growth and stability in Africa would be enhanced by improved cooperation on key policy issues as well as in development efforts.
- Hope we can agree to work together, particularly on difficult regional issues such as Nigeria, Niger, Burundi, Sudan and Liberia.

Nigeria [if raised]

- Bloody coup or civil unrest would have disastrous consequences for Nigeria as well as for regional security. Main source of instability is continued military dictatorship. Risks of continued international inaction too great.
- Think targeted economic measures are necessary to move Abacha forward. Will come to you soon with specific proposal. Hope we have your support for more robust collective action.

Burundi [if raised]

- Ambassador Albright has just returned from mission to Burundi. Her report is gloomy one.
- Challenges are quelling violence, seeking long-term political solution that involves power-sharing and being prepared to take necessary measures before disaster happens.
- Need to work together both in Security Council and on ground. May be time to couple preventive measures with possible punitive action aimed at bringing extremists to negotiating table and halting violence.

- Support idea of Great Lakes regional conference under auspices of OAU or other international organization, but think problem of Burundi is especially urgent and should be addressed quickly.
- Hope former President Nyerere (Neh-RARE-ee) of Tanzania can play constructive role in Burundi. Great Lakes conference may be better suited to dealing with issue of Rwandan refugees.
- [If asked]: While we support President Carter's initiative, you should understand USG is not funding or materially aiding his efforts.

Niger [if raised]

- Very concerned about coup last weekend in Niger (Nee-JER). Further illustrates need for us to coordinate closely our efforts to promote democracy in Africa.
- Are there other measures we can take to reverse coup in Niger?

Liberia [if raised]

- Hope France and EU join us in playing leadership role in providing assistance for peacekeeping, disarmament and demobilization in Liberia.

Cambodia [If raised]

- U.S. French cooperation was vital to success of UN effort; need to continue it.

Haitian Justice Sector [If raised]

- U.S.-French cooperation in Haiti is model of what we can accomplish together.
- Participation of 100 gendarmes in UN police force was critical to its operation. Urge you to consider sending at least that many to UN follow-on force.

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Washington, June 8, 1996

Unofficial translation

Paris,

Dear Mister President,

We have noticed, in the course of each of our talks, the very wide convergence of views existing between us about the necessity of reinforcing, by renovating it, the transatlantic partnership.

I know how much your personal impulse, based on this shared conviction, has contributed to the result of the ministerial meeting of the Atlantic Council which has just been held in Berlin.

As I stressed it publicly, this outcome constitutes a major success for the Alliance. Far from loosening the transatlantic link, the agreement reached in Berlin should give it a new vitality, enabling the Europeans to take a larger part of responsibilities within the framework of an Alliance better suited to the new strategical context.

This success owes very much to the confiding and thorough dialogue which intensified between our two countries, and to our cooperation with all of our allies.

I wish that, in the same spirit, we could succeed together to carry out the reform under way, providing the effective implementation of the orientations adopted in Berlin. As I pointed it out, France will be then ready to take all its place in this new Alliance, expression of the new transatlantic partnership that we wish to promote.

Sincerely yours,

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

Paris, le

Monsieur le Président,

Ch. Bill,

Nous avons constaté, lors de chacun de nos entretiens, la très large convergence de vues qui existe entre nous sur la nécessité de renforcer, en le renouvelant, le partenariat transatlantique.

Je sais combien votre impulsion personnelle, fondée sur cette conviction partagée, a contribué au résultat de la réunion ministérielle du Conseil Atlantique qui vient de se tenir à Berlin.

Comme je l'ai souligné publiquement, ce résultat constitue un succès majeur pour l'Alliance. Loin de distendre le lien transatlantique, l'accord intervenu à Berlin doit lui donner en effet une nouvelle vitalité, en permettant aux Européens d'exercer une plus grande part de responsabilités dans le cadre d'une Alliance mieux adaptée au nouveau contexte stratégique.

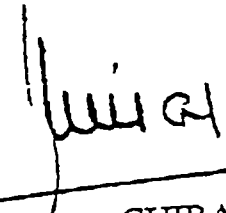
Son Excellence
Monsieur William J. CLINTON
Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique
WASHINGTON

Ce succès doit beaucoup au dialogue confiant et approfondi qui s'est renforcé encore entre nos deux pays, et à la coopération engagée avec tous nos alliés.

Je souhaite que, dans le même esprit, nous puissions réussir ensemble la réforme engagée, en assurant la mise en oeuvre effective des orientations adoptées à Berlin. Comme je l'ai indiqué, la France sera prête alors à prendre toute sa place dans cette Alliance nouvelle, expression du nouveau partenariat transatlantique que nous souhaitons promouvoir.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'expression de ma très haute considération.

Très respectueusement,



Jacques CHIRAC

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Jacques:

Thank you for your letter expressing satisfaction at the results of the recent Berlin ministerial meeting. I fully share your view that the principles agreed to in Berlin will help give NATO new vitality as we continue our efforts to adapt the Alliance to the challenges of the post-Cold War world.

As I made clear during our meeting in Washington last February, the United States welcomes the building of a stronger European defense identity within NATO. This will enable European allies to assume increased responsibility for European security, promote greater burdensharing and help ensure continuing broad support in North America and Europe for a strong transatlantic relationship.

Let me also stress that I warmly welcome your historic decision to bring France fully into NATO once the principles agreed to at Berlin are put into effect. This will greatly strengthen the Alliance and better prepare NATO to face the challenges that lie ahead. Although much work remains to be done, the United States looks forward to cooperating closely with France and our other NATO allies in making the promise of Berlin a reality.

I look forward to seeing you in Lyons.

Sincerely,

 A

His Excellency Jacques Chirac
President of the French Republic
Paris

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: THE WHITE HOUSE
TO: AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO: SECSTATE WASHDC
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO FRENCH PRESIDENT CHIRAC

1. AMBASSADOR OR DCM: PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON TO PRESIDENT CHIRAC AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. SIGNED ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW.

2. BEGIN TEXT

DEAR JACQUES:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER EXPRESSING SATISFACTION AT THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT BERLIN MINISTERIAL MEETING. I FULLY SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT THE PRINCIPLES AGREED TO IN BERLIN WILL HELP GIVE NATO NEW VITALITY AS WE CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO ADAPT THE ALLIANCE TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD.

AS I MADE CLEAR DURING OUR MEETING IN WASHINGTON LAST FEBRUARY, THE UNITED STATES WELCOMES THE BUILDING OF A STRONGER EUROPEAN DEFENSE IDENTITY WITHIN NATO. THIS WILL ENABLE EUROPEAN ALLIES TO ASSUME INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY, PROMOTE GREATER BURDENSARING AND HELP ENSURE CONTINUING BROAD SUPPORT IN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE FOR A STRONG TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

LET ME ALSO STRESS THAT I WARMLY WELCOME YOUR HISTORIC DECISION TO BRING FRANCE FULLY INTO NATO ONCE THE PRINCIPLES AGREED TO AT BERLIN ARE PUT INTO EFFECT. THIS WILL GREATLY STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE AND BETTER PREPARE NATO TO FACE THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD. ALTHOUGH MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE, THE UNITED STATES LOOKS FORWARD TO COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH FRANCE AND OUR OTHER NATO ALLIES IN MAKING THE PROMISE OF BERLIN A REALITY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN LYONS.

SINCERELY,

BILL CLINTON

END TEXT

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 25, 1996

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE *AL*

SUBJECT: Reply to Letter from French President Chirac on
Internal NATO Adaptation

Purpose

To reply to an August 28 letter from French President Chirac on
internal NATO adaptation.

Background

As outlined in my memorandum of September 21, French President
Chirac has proposed, inter alia, that the United States give up
command of NATO forces in southern Europe (AFSOUTH) as a
condition for French reintegration into the NATO military
structure. In the reply at Tab A, you make clear that U.S.
retention of command over AFSOUTH is vital to U.S. security
interest in the region and essential to maintaining the
effectiveness of NATO forces in southern Europe.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the reply to French President Chirac at Tab A.

Attachments

- Tab A Reply to French President Chirac
- Tab B Letter from French President Chirac

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Okay for Signature by _____
Staff Secretary _____
Date _____

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Jacques:

Thank you for your detailed reply to my letter of August 14. I want to offer you some additional thoughts prompted by your letter and by events of the past month.

There is a great deal of symmetry in our thinking on how to proceed. I deeply appreciated your recent remarks, both in Paris and Warsaw, that set us firmly on course to extend the benefits and responsibilities of our transatlantic community to those in Central and Eastern Europe for whom it was merely a dream for so long. We have made a great deal of progress since Berlin to adapt the Alliance internally, to keep enlargement on course and to begin to define the framework for an enhanced partnership between NATO and Russia. Our success has resulted in no small part from our willingness to adopt fresh perspectives in working toward our common goals.

I am pleased with our progress on NATO's internal adaptation even though more work needs to be done. Our military advisors have made great strides to define command arrangements that will accomplish our shared objectives -- to improve NATO's ability to carry out its new missions and to create a stronger, more capable European role within the Alliance, while preserving the transatlantic link. I welcome your commitment to broad French participation, as an equal working partner of 16, at all levels in the adapted Alliance structure.

As you noted, I do not believe a new supreme commander, overseeing both SACEUR and SACLANT, would accomplish our objectives. I believe the best way forward is to assign new responsibilities to the Deputy SACEUR position occupied by a European, in support of the European Security and Defense Identity (ESDI). I am committed to make this happen in a manner that meets both our concerns.

You have spoken about the need to emphasize the European role in the Alliance. I am in complete agreement with European allies exercising greater responsibility in the conduct of Alliance military operations. With the full participation of France and, we hope, Spain, this should translate into flag-rank positions

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for French and Spanish officers throughout an adapted military structure, especially in connection with new CJTF functions and related planning. This is an area we can explore further.

But, Jacques, I must be frank -- while I support, overall, the concept of rotational command positions at the regional and sub-regional levels, I cannot support applying that concept to the Southern Command. The weight of the U.S. force commitment, the stabilizing role of the U.S. presence in the region and the need to maintain public and political support here in the United States for our continued military contribution to the Alliance argue overwhelmingly for the maintenance of a U.S. commander in AFSOUTH. I sincerely hope this will not hinder our joint efforts to finish the broad adaptation package that offers so much for the Alliance and our Partners.

I would ask you to consider the very significant changes now underway in the Alliance's military structure that have come about, in very large measure, due to initiatives put forward by European allies. France has provided the positive impetus to the greatest adaptation to the Alliance in over forty years. I am confident that once these changes are in place, and as European military contributions and capabilities increase, further adaptations will be possible to enhance the transatlantic partnership you and I both seek.

Our agreed timetable is clear and deliberate, pointing toward decision at the December NAC setting a summit in the spring or early summer of 1997. As you noted, our first priority in the enlargement process is to ensure that it enhances the security of all European states, not simply those in the first group to be invited to apply for NATO membership. We must create a package of activities to reassure both aspirants and those who elect not to pursue membership at this time. We also need to keep the door open for other prospective new members who will not be prepared for membership that quickly.

As you have noted, further elaboration of NATO's future relationship with Russia must be a central component of our strategy. We should stress to the Russians our interest in working on a parallel track with them to create a new NATO-Russia relationship, based on a NATO-Russia Charter that provides for both consultations and joint action. I am pleased to hear our representatives are working so well together as we move to define the elements around which a NATO-Russia enhanced partnership should be constructed.

Both Helmut and John have suggested, and I agree, that it is important we not create any impression of taking advantage of Russia during the period of Yeltsin's surgery and convalescence,

even as we hew to the basic Alliance decision in support of enlargement, and an agreed timetable. I confirmed that to Boris when I talked to him on September 15.

I look forward to continuing our discussions in the weeks ahead. In the spirit of our close working relationship, I am sending a copy of this letter to both John and Helmut.

My warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

His Excellency Jacques Chirac
President of the French Republic
Paris

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Jacques:

I congratulate you on the occasion of the second Council of Europe Summit, which your government has organized so successfully. By bringing together the Council of Europe's forty heads of state and government, this Summit demonstrates the solidarity of a Europe now united by democratic values and respect for universal principles of justice and equality.

The United States welcomes the strengthening of European institutions committed to the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has developed an impressive jurisprudence, and the Council's institutions have trained local officials and assisted European states in bringing their laws and practice into conformity with the highest human rights standards. We look forward to the establishment of a permanent, single court, which will benefit all European citizens.

We also appreciate the Council of Europe's programs directed at law enforcement and governance issues, such as efforts to end drug smuggling and reduce corruption. To support this work, the United States Government has contributed \$200,000 to assist in anti-money laundering measures in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

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The United States' relationship with the Council of Europe has grown steadily since we were admitted as an observer in 1996. In particular, we have worked with the Council to help implement the Dayton and Washington Agreements in the countries of the former Yugoslavia. Recognizing our strong collaboration on these critical issues, I am pleased today to announce a U.S. pledge of one million dollars to support Bosnia's Human Rights Commission. We look forward to expanding our dialogue with the Council on these and other areas of common concern.

I again congratulate both the government of France and the member states of the Council of Europe on the success of this Summit, and I wish the Council continued success in its defense of our shared values.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

His Excellency
Jacques Chirac
President of the French Republic
Paris

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Jacques:

I was pleased to hear of your African Peacekeeping plan, which would enhance the capabilities of African nations to respond to crises on the continent. Your plan is very much in line with our African Crisis Response Force Initiative (ACRI), and I appreciate the close coordination between our two governments on this very important issue.

Your plan to commit approximately \$30 million to this effort for training, military exercises, and storage facilities for peacekeeping equipment will improve the capabilities of African nations to respond to crises on the continent. In addition, your support for the OAU's "Mechanism for Prevention and Conflict Resolution," to which the United States has provided \$10 million, is also key to ensuring that African nations have a leadership role in solving African problems.

Last week's meeting in Dakar, Senegal, which France convened, greatly helped to further the idea of African peacekeeping and to enhance the cooperation and coordination on this issue between our governments, the United Kingdom and interested African nations. I look forward to continuing that cooperation.

Sincerely,

A



His Excellency
Jacques Chirac
President of the French Republic
Paris

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
2-19-99

~~You think there's
a good agreement
by him?~~

Does W. Bush have
resources to do this?

- ① News
See
- ② News Today
see
- ③ Sept 99
- ④ W Bush
- ⑤ Sp. Report
of Big Country
↳ Jay
↳ see
↳ US
- ⑥ Recession

G-7

Schroeder debt:
we largely agree.
China is not
where Schroeder is.

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