

SUBJECT

No 10 Downing St.

Harte  
op

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. 3185 1 T/20/82

CONFIDENTIAL

DISTRIBUTION SELECTED  
FILE COPY

OO PARIS DESKBY 021800Z

GRS 170

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 021800Z

FM FCO 021730Z JUN 82

TO IMMEDIATE PARIS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 321 OF 2 JUNE.

TELECON BAYNE/PETRIE: VERSAILLES DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS

1. GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND TO THE ELYSEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BEGINS: I AM GREATLY LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AGAIN ON FRIDAY AND TO TAKING PART IN THE EXCELLENT PROGRAMME WHICH HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE VERSAILLES SUMMIT.

FRANCIS PYM AND I WILL, I FEAR, NEED TO LEAVE VERSAILLES ON SUNDAY NIGHT, IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR GRAND DINNER. I HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY, IN MY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AT THIS TIME, I FEEL THAT I MUST RETURN TO LONDON THAT NIGHT, WITHOUT STAYING ON FOR THE OPERA AND THE FIREWORKS. I VERY MUCH REGRET THIS: GEOFFREY HOWE AND ROBERT ARMSTRONG WILL BE THERE IN MY PLACE.

DO PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR DISTURBING YOUR ARRANGEMENTS. OUR DISCUSSIONS AT VERSAILLES WILL BE OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE AND I SHALL PLAY THE FULLEST POSSIBLE PART IN THEM. ENDS

PYM

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST.]

DISTRIBUTION:

LIMITED

ERD

WED

PS

PS/PUS

MR BULLARD

COPIES TO:-

SIR R ARMSTRONG CABINET OFFICE

1  
CONFIDENTIAL



RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15/1 - for Tel to T

2 June 1982

DEPARTURE FROM VERSAILLES

Thank you for your letter of 2 June.

The Prime Minister agrees generally with its contents but would like a slightly revised message to be sent to President Mitterrand. I enclose the text. You will see that this incorporates the point which you suggested might be made orally.

The Prime Minister agrees that it would be very helpful if the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir Robert Armstrong would stay on after her departure and attend both the opera and the fireworks.

✓ With regard to your fourth paragraph, as soon as you can confirm that the Prime Minister's message to President Mitterrand has been delivered, we shall take steps to make known informally to the British Press in advance that the Prime Minister intends to leave the Summit early.

I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosure to John Kerr (HM Treasury) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

**A. J. COLES**

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED



DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

---

I am greatly looking forward to meeting you again on Friday and to taking part in the excellent programme which has been arranged for the Versailles Summit.

I much regret, however, to have to tell you that Francis Pym and I will need to leave Versailles on Sunday night immediately after your Grand Dinner, so that I shall miss the Opera and the Fireworks. I am sure you will understand that it would not be appropriate for me to be seen publicly at such entertainment at a time when heavy fighting may be in progress in or around the Falklands. In addition, I have to be back in London on Sunday night to prepare for a meeting with my Ministers early on Monday morning.

Do please forgive me for disturbing your arrangements. Our discussions at Versailles will be of the greatest importance and I shall play the fullest possible part in them.





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 June 1982

Dear John,

Departure from Versailles

We spoke, and you confirmed that the Prime Minister would stay for President Mitterrand's Grand Dinner on 6 June but would return to London that night, missing the Opera and Fireworks.

The view of the Embassy in Paris is that the risk that President Mitterrand will take the Prime Minister's early departure amiss would be greatly reduced if they are authorised to deliver a very short personal message from the Prime Minister to President Mitterrand, and I attach a draft. We agreed that the Embassy might also be given discretion, if they felt that it would be useful, to add that apart from the reasons mentioned in the message, an additional consideration in the Prime Minister's mind is the distress that might be caused in this country if she were to be seen publicly at entertainment such as the Opera or the Fireworks display at a time when heavy fighting may well be in progress in or around the Falklands.

The Embassy also advised that it would help them greatly in presenting the Prime Minister's decision if they were able to say that the Chancellor of the Exchequer and - given the very prominent place accorded to Special Representatives at the Versailles Summit - Sir Robert Armstrong would stay on after the Prime Minister's departure and attend both the Opera and the Fireworks. The Foreign Secretary very much hopes that this can be arranged. If you agreed, we would envisage the Ambassador taking action with the Elysee in the course of this afternoon.

The Embassy have also made the point that it would greatly reduce the risk of misunderstanding if the Prime Minister's intention to leave early were made known informally to the British press well in advance.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Kerr and to David Wright who I hope will also be able to confirm their

/agreement





agreement to what is proposed.

*Yours ever,*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F N Richards', written in a cursive style.

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street



DSR 1 (Revised)

MESSAGE

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: PRIME MINISTER

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I very much regret that I and Francis Pym will have to leave Versailles on Sunday night immediately after your Grand Dinner, so that I shall miss the performance in the Opera and the Fireworks. There are so many uncertainties about developments in the Falkland Islands that I must be back in London on Sunday night, so as to prepare for a meeting with my Ministers early on Monday morning. *Z* I hope you will forgive me; I very much look forward to the rest of the programme you have arranged for the Summit.

Enclosures—flag(s).....