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LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

29 September 1986

I have seen a copy of Paris telegram 954 about the proposed visit to London of M. Francois Bujon de l'Estang, the French Prime Minister's Diplomatic Adviser. I would very much like to see M. Bujon while he is here and should be grateful if some provision could be made in the programme, once a date is fixed for him to visit London.

(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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FM PARIS  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 954

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OF 261552Z SEPTEMBER 86

[COVAR]

PRE-SUMMIT TALKS WITH FRENCH PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER  
(TELECON RENWICK/GARSDALE ALSO REFERRED)

1. BUJON DE L'ESTANG (CHIRAC'S COUNSELLOR FOR DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND AID COOPERATION) HAS TOLD US THAT HE WOULD LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY DOSSIERS, DIPLOMATIC TOPICS AND BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS FAIRLY SOON TO HELP PREPARE FOR THE BILATERAL SUMMIT IN NOVEMBER AND THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING MONTH. HE SEEMS VERY READY TO GO TO LONDON AND WOULD WISH TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE OR TWO OTHER OFFICIALS. BUJON'S ORIGINAL MESSAGE IN FACT REFERRED TO A WISH TO DO THIS 'WITH HIS BRITISH OPPOSITE NUMBER', BUT HE KNOWS LONDON WELL ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT THERE IS NO SUCH EXACT EQUIVALENT.

2. SINCE YESTERDAY'S TELECON UNDER REFERENCE, MINISTER HAS SPOKEN PERSONALLY TO BUJON. THE LATTER SAID HE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY WITH A DAY-LONG WORKING VISIT TO LONDON DURING WHICH HE COULD SEE BOTH THOSE CONCERNED ON THE COMMUNITY SIDE (EG WILLIAMSON, BRAITHWAITE, RENWICK) AND THOSE CONCERNED WITH POLITICAL AND BILATERAL ISSUES (EG DEREK THOMAS, MALLABY, RATFORD). IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF IT PROVED POSSIBLE TO ADD CHARLES POWELL (WHOM HE KNOWS) TO THOSE ATTENDING THE LUNCH WE WOULD PRESUMABLY WISH TO OFFER.

3. ON DATES BUJON COULD MANAGE A DAY IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 20 OCTOBER (HE SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTED 23 OCTOBER), OR 10 OR 12 NOVEMBER, OR EVEN 17 OR 18 NOVEMBER (WHICH HE DID NOT THINK TOO CLOSE TO THE SUMMIT). OTHER DAYS AROUND THIS PERIOD ARE MUCH BLOCKED BY THE NEED TO ACCOMPANY CHIRAC ABROAD, EG TO POLYNESIA AND LOME.

4. BUJON IS VERY MUCH HIS OWN MAN AND PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICY AT MATIGNON. WE SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT HE SEES HIS OWN TALKS AS FORMING PART OF A COORDINATED PATTERN WITH OTHERS WE SHALL BE HAVING OVER THE NEXT MONTH OR SO (EG RENWICK'S VISIT TO PARIS ON 8 OCTOBER, OR CONTACTS SUGGESTED BY BOSSON'S CABINET). I SHOULD LIKE US TO BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO BUJON HERE SOON WITH A FIRM PROPOSAL. GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

FRETWELL

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