

MR COLES

President Mitterrand

President Mitterrand telephoned the Prime Minister at 1800 hours, after indicating much earlier in the day that he was ready to talk to the Prime Minister at any time which suited her. A transcript of the conversation is being typed. Sir Michael Palliser acted as translator.

The President spoke to assure the Prime Minister of his personal support, and of the support of the French people as a whole, for Britain at this time. He went on to say that, if there was anything that France could do to help, she stood ready. France understood that Britain was a powerful nation, capable of handling such problems on her own, but he wanted the Prime Minister and Britain to know that she had friends who shared her opposition to this kind of aggression, and would provide any assistance requested.

I have not dictated any record, nor have I forwarded the transcript to the FCO.

During my conversations with the French Embassy (M. Tremeau), before the President spoke to the Prime Minister, I was told that M. Cheysson had telephoned the French Embassy in London to pass on his own messages of support and to say that France was doing everything possible to rally support for our UN Resolution ^{from countries} within their sphere, like Togo and Zaire.

MA

3 April, 1982