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Martinique Toast 3/16/91 [OA 6856]

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WASHINGTON

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* NSC sending substantive comments

(Hinchliffe/Cawley)
March 11, 1991 6 p.m.
MARTINIQUE

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTINIQUE LUNCH TOAST
March 16, 1991

Today, we see a world that's changed remarkably since the last time we met in the Caribbean. When we were together in St. Martin, it was shortly after the dramatic fall of the Berlin Wall. And, together, we looked optimistically to the exciting future the new freedom would bring.

Since then, we have been gratified to see liberty and the rule of law plant firm roots in the lands where totalitarianism once reigned. We have seen astounding change in Central and Eastern Europe -- and we see the promise of more.

But, as partners in the extraordinary challenge of our shared New World Order, we have also seen dark threats elsewhere in the world. We are here today to celebrate the defeat of that darkness. France and the United States worked closely together to bring about the liberation of Kuwait. Our nations have now fought side by side four times -- for four great causes and each time brave Americans and Frenchmen fought side by side for freedom.

Mr. President, thank you for hosting us on this splendid "Island of Flowers." In the restfulness and beauty of this place, there is such a feeling of peace. And that's the vision to which we recommit ourselves today -- peace for our world.

So let's raise our glasses to toast that friendship, and to toast the ideals that bind our nations: Liberty. Equality. And brotherhood. May God Bless both our lands.

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Fodor's '91
Caribbean,
P. 338



Dr. Al Pierce
NT's War College
475 - 1935

US/F have gained many things -

1982-84: Lebanon

French barracks bombed by

1984: Chad

US in Sudan w/ AWACS to keep
fr in check

1987: US + F helping Kuwaiti tankers
in Gulf

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P.g. war today

* Lafayette gave GW the key
to the Battle on ground
for issue lesson →
sent to fr. Rev.
key is @ Mt. V.

(Hinchliffe/Cawley)
March 11, 1991 1 p.m.
MARTINIQUE

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTINIQUE LUNCH TOAST
March 16, 1991

Today we see a world that's changed remarkably since the last time we met in the Caribbean. When we were together in St. Martin, it was shortly after the dramatic and inspiring crumbling of the Berlin Wall. And together we looked optimistically to the exciting future we envisioned the new freedom would bring.

Since then, we have been gratified to see liberty and the rule of law plant firm roots in the lands where totalitarianism once reigned. We have seen astounding change in Central and Eastern Europe -- and we see the promise of more.

But, as partners in the extraordinary challenge of our shared New World Order, we have also seen dark threats elsewhere in the world. We are here today to celebrate the defeat of that darkness. France and the United States worked closely together to bring about the liberation of Kuwait. Our nations have now fought side by side four times -- for four great causes. For our independence. For others' independence. For your independence. And now -- for the independence of a friend.

Mr. President, thank you for hosting us on this splendid "Island of Flowers." In the restfulness and beauty of this place, there is such a feeling of peace. And that's the vision to which we re-commit ourselves today -- peace for our world.

So let's raise our glasses to toast that friendship, and to toast the ideals that bind our nations: Liberty. Equality. And brotherhood. May God Bless both our lands.

SUGGESTED TOAST

WORKING LUNCH WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

The world has changed a lot since we last met in the Caribbean. Our meeting in St. Martin came just weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall, when together we confronted the exciting and historic challenges of the new freedom in Europe.

Since then liberty and the rule of law have set down firm roots where totalitarianism once reigned. The world has changed for the better in Central and Eastern Europe, although our continued attention will be required. Now the Gulf war has brought other challenges forward.

Mr. President, we worked together closely to liberate Kuwait and roll back Iraq's aggression. I hope we can now find a way to seize the present opportunities to begin building peace and prosperity throughout the Middle East.

Georges Pompidou, President of the Republic of France

Address before a Joint Meeting of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

February 25, 1970

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the noble words which you have spoken to introduce me. Through me, they are addressed to France, where they will be received with emotion and gratitude. How could I myself fail to be moved on addressing the assembled representatives of a great, a free people, on addressing the Congress of the United States, the embodiment of the oldest democracy? For if it is true that France helped in the birth of the United States of America, if French philosophers of the 18th century were often the inspiration of your founders, your independence and your Constitution have given an unprecedented grandeur and magnetic force to liberty, to the rights of man and to democracy through election.

In 1789, in a letter addressed to a member of the French Academy of Science, Benjamin Franklin wrote:

Our Constitution is in actual operation: everything appears to promise that it will last: but in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes.

For once, Benjamin Franklin was being pessimistic. Certainly death and taxes have remained. But after two centuries, this Constitution, intended for a population scattered over 13 colonies, continues to direct the growth and power of a nation of over 200 million inhabitants and a federation of 50 States.

This surprising and almost unique political stability, conquered right from the start and maintained through vast changes and upheavals, is something which we French admire all the more that it has often escaped us. France at the present time is aware of this and feels profound gratitude for General de Gaulle for having endowed her with well-balanced institutions, in the shelter of which freedom

Congressional Record, 91st Congress, 2nd Session, vol. 116, part 4, pp. 4713-4714.

can be fully enjoyed without endangering the necessary continuity and efficacy of governmental action. The year 1969 brought proof to this. It was a year in which the crucial period brought on by General de Gaulle's voluntary withdrawal was weathered smoothly. Therefore, it is not without some pride that I am today the first President of the Republic of France elected by universal suffrage to bring the greeting of my country to this Congress and to convey to you the friendship of the French people.

It is a friendship which reaches both into a distant and a recent past, into the struggles waged together, the invaluable services rendered, whether long ago for your independence or 25 years ago—as no Frenchman has forgotten—for our liberation. But it is a living and active friendship because over and above interests which sometimes are bound to differ, there are common ideals which unite us and command our action.

Such is first of all, love of liberty, that is, the firm desire to safeguard our own freedom, to maintain it in our institutions, to defend it if necessary against any external threat. "Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us," Lincoln said. But there is also respect for the liberty of others, that is, for the right of all peoples to self-determination and to organize themselves as they see fit. "We believe that every nation has a right to live its own life," said another of your Presidents, General Eisenhower. It is a fact that many nations do not live according to the principles which we believe in. We must admit that this is their right. The crusading spirit, in the last analysis, is the spirit of domination. In politics, as in religion, freedom is akin to tolerance and does not seek to convert except by example.

Tolerance in the world today means coexistence, not accepted as a passing obligation but wanted and sought after as being the path which leads to lasting détente and peace. Herein, of course, lies the second powerful ideal we have in common—the desire for peace. The alliance which unites us has no other aim but to defend, were it necessary, our freedom and our independence. It threatens no one; it rejects all spirit of aggression. France, having known war only too well, seeks merely to safeguard her own peace and to facilitate, within her means, the reestablishment or maintenance of this peace throughout the world. It is in this spirit that we welcomed the conference on Vietnam in Paris. At times we have regretted its length and wondered whether the paths followed had always been the speediest and the surest. But I know, from having observed it even yesterday, the will to peace which guides the President of the United States. I know—because France has experienced it—how

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difficult it is to end such conflicts and that the stronger a people, the more difficult the effort required, but also the greater the honor won. Allow me, as a friend, to tell you that the end of the war in Vietnam will be for the United States the most worthy of victories—a victory won first over oneself.

How could I not also mention the conflict in the Middle East? Judging its existence threatened, the State of Israel has started a preventive action which has brought it undeniable success on the battlefield. France has indicated her position in terms which have often been criticized or misunderstood. Faithful to the United Nations resolution for which our two countries voted, I reaffirm here the right of the State of Israel not only to existence but also to security and the free exercise of all the rights of an independent and sovereign state. But who cannot see the precarious and in the long run the barren nature of military success? Who does not understand that there is no assured future for Israel outside a lasting entente with the world which surrounds it—entente which implies renunciation of military conquest and the solution of the Palestinian problems. Such a result, in a situation where emotions and fanatical passions are increasing daily, should, to be quickly reached, proceed from United Nations action and in particular from the agreement of the four permanent members of the Security Council to define and propose the general conditions for a settlement and to provide the guarantees for it.

Believe me, France's intention in the face of these different conflicts has never been to wrong the one and to serve the other. We seek, we want only peace, a peace that is sound and just because it is founded on the will of peoples and the right of all men to a home and a homeland.

The extensive means of destruction invented by science, the crime against mankind that a nuclear war would constitute, compel us to make peace our first and permanent goal. And, because you are the most powerful nation on earth, you, more than any other, are responsible for peace. Never has any nation borne so heavy a responsibility. But there is no nobler mission for a people than to follow the age-old words of Antigone: "My vocation is not hatred, but love," not war, but peace.

So many necessary and exciting tasks await us, if we are allowed to devote ourselves to them. With you, as with us, there is poverty which is not yet overcome, human dignity which is far from always being guaranteed. There are innumerable perils stemming from technical and scientific progress and problems by the growth of enormous and often inhuman cities. There are whole continents

around us where underdevelopment nurtures want. We have no duty more imperious than to help them develop without seeking to make them dependent; decolonization must be coupled with an active cooperation whereby the richer nations assist the less-favored without encroaching on their independence. Poverty is proud. Let us respect it as such, but let us help it.

Liberty, peace, cooperation. Such are ideals common to us and to France. These are what closely unite us because they correspond to our common concept of life and of the destiny of mankind. Of course, there are times where immediate interests prevail. Sometimes these words—liberty, peace, cooperation—are distorted and they are used for less honorable ends. We know full well that men are not perfect and states even less so. But our ambition must be to resist the lurking temptations of individual or national selfishness. Never have men seemed so divided yet never have they been so close. We recently had proof of this when Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin set foot on the moon. This unprecedented feat was hailed as a victory for all mankind. That day, all men felt a sense of brotherhood with the American astronauts and were proud of their success. May that demonstration of human solidarity inspire our action.

Vive les États Unis.

[*Applause, the Members rising.*]

Rafael Venezuela

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Vincent Auriol, President of the Republic of France

INTRODUCTION BY ALAIN SILVERA

See last page

VINCENT AURIOL WAS BORN IN modest circumstances, the son of a baker, in the village of Revel (Haute-Garonne) in the southwest of France on August 27, 1884. After studying law and philosophy at the University of Toulouse, he soon entered the ranks of the Socialist party (SFIO) and in 1909 launched a local socialist paper, *Le Midi Socialiste*, to challenge the popular Radical daily, *La Dépêche du Midi*. Dividing his time between newspaper work and his law practice, he married into a family belonging to the circle of the great socialist leader, Jean Jaurès, a native son of Toulouse, and in 1914 won election to Parliament, serving continuously as the deputy of Muret until the fall of the Third Republic in 1940.

The turning-point in his career took place at the Congress of Tours in 1920, where he sided with Léon Blum, Jaurès' successor as party leader, against Lenin's efforts to incorporate the SFIO into the Communist International. As Blum's loyal lieutenant in a truncated SFIO, he represented his party in the finance committee of the Chamber, joined the prime minister, Edouard Herriot, in London in 1925 to negotiate the Dawes plan, and accompanied the Radical Joseph Caillaux on a mission to Washington, D.C., in a futile effort to reach a settlement on France's war debts. In 1936, he served as finance minister in Léon Blum's Popular Front government but failed to halt the panic produced in financial circles by his timid efforts to stimulate the economy through a policy of budgetary deficits and was finally compelled to proclaim a devaluation of the franc.

Following the collapse of France in 1940, he took—along with Blum and a handful of other Socialists—a heroic stand against the Pétainist regime, as one of the eighty deputies assembled by Pierre Laval in a casino in Vichy who refused to grant full powers to Marshal Pétain. His role in the internal Resistance and as a supporter of de Gaulle, first in London, then in Algiers, paved the

way to his election as the first president of the Fourth Republic in 1947. Noted as a conciliator and an effective leader of the Third Force, a coalition of centrist parties who tried to steer a middle course between the Gaullist Right and the Communists, he played a major part in drawing France closer to the Atlantic alliance. He died in Paris on January 1, 1966, having lived long enough to witness the fall of the Fourth Republic.

Auriol's speech to the joint meeting of Congress in 1951 coincided with the launching of the Schuman Plan, a French effort for promoting European integration by pooling Western Europe's coal and steel resources, and with the vocal opposition expressed by a coalition of Republican and southern Democratic senators against President Truman's expressed desire to reinforce the defense of Europe by sending an additional four U.S. divisions to the Continent. In his speech, Auriol went straight to the heart of the matter by declaring that "neutralism was a moral absurdity" and "geographical and historical nonsense." He also pointed to the Schuman plan as an illustration of the extent to which his country was prepared to surrender a part of its sovereignty in the search for peace. Truman succeeded in overcoming Republican opposition to strengthen NATO, and Auriol's vision of a united Europe has by now become a more tangible reality.

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Vincent Auriol, President of the Republic of France

Address before a Joint Meeting of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

April 2, 1951

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Senators, and Members of Congress, I am deeply moved by the exceptional honor you are rendering me in allowing me to appear before this assembly and to address you from this glorious rostrum. It will touch the heart of the people of France to whom, through me, this homage and this warm welcome are directed.

I am the more deeply moved that my visit is the first one made by a President of the French Republic, in the name of France to the Republic of the United States and that it recalls to me two historic visits to our country made by two of your illustrious statesmen: Benjamin Franklin in 1776, and, a century and a half later, after the First World War, President Wilson.

It gives me an opportunity to pay tribute to your heroic young men who under the command of their glorious leaders twice rushed to our ravaged country to share with our own sons in the fight.

These memories illustrate our common history, and this history already long and always friendly is a history of freedom.

In recalling these memories in the presence of the Congress of the great American democracy, I want to express our constant and heartfelt sympathy to all the families whose sons have died for our common ideal and are resting forever in French soil, side by side with the sons of France and of the other Allied Nations. Through you representing the 48 States of the Union, I wish to tell the American people of our grateful and loyal friendship and of our unshakable attachment to the great human principles France has always proclaimed—principles embodied both in your Declaration of Independence and in our declaration of the rights of man and of the citizen, principles which, 3 years ago, after so many trials and

contests, have received the unanimous consecration of the United Nations.

These sacred achievements of man which are not only the most precious values in our civilization but also the conditions for all future improvement, for all individual and social progress, are today threatened—we are sorrowfully obliged to admit this—only 6 years after our two people made sacrifices never before equaled in history, for the attainment and organization of a just and tranquil peace.

Confronted with this situation, far different from what we had wanted and expected, with our security threatened, any nation worthy of her freedom must face reality and take stock of her own responsibilities. Today I have come to tell you what France thinks and what France seeks.

Gentlemen, you are the representatives of a people who insist upon truth. Your opinions are based on facts and your judgments on acts and not on words.

This is why I will ask you this question: When in the defense of her independence and the sacred cause of liberty a nation has lost 1,357,000 men from 1914 to 1918, 575,000 dead from 1939 to 1945—240,000 perished in uniform in the first and the last battles for freedom, 112,000 were shot or were killed by bombing, 182,000 died deported to Germany for belonging to the underground, and 40,000 died in enemy labor camps; when, for the same cause, the same nation, fighting at the door to southeastern Asia, in Indochina, a war which has lasted more than 4 years, does not hesitate to reaffirm her faith in international law by sending to Korea officers and men whose heroism makes them the worthy comrades of your officers and men; then I ask you, who could seriously question her determination? In fact, what nation has ever proven better her love for independence and for peace and her will to defend both?

The attitude which has been given the barbarous name of "neutralism" has always been foreign to the French soul, not only because it is a moral absurdity—can anyone be neutral between servitude and liberty, between good and evil—but because it is geographical and historical nonsense. Our people have experienced the frailty of their exposed land and sea frontiers. Almost alone in 1914 and again in 1939 they have met the first shock of armies so powerful that each time it has taken 4 years of ceaseless effort and a coalition of the world's forces to defeat them. Therefore they know that right without might is powerless. They know that isolation is death. They know that neutrality, whether declared, armed or disarmed, has protected neither Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway,

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nor Denmark and that an aggressor would never stop at a frontier post, even should it be surmounted with a dove holding the branch of an olive tree. [Applause.]

Finally, they know that France is not simply the western extremity of Europe in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, but that the French Union extends its influence and civilization to all parts of the world and that in the common strategy for freedom and peace, France has courageously accepted the tasks and responsibilities of a great world power. They know also that once France has fallen, the whole of Europe will be in chains with all her potential strength in the service of the invader and that the whole world, indeed civilization itself, will be in mortal danger.

I shall always remember the clear warning when, in 1919, as a young deputy I heard it stated from the rostrum of our own Parliament by the President of the United States that France still stands at the frontier:

Here is where the blow fell because the rulers of the world did not sooner see how to prevent it . . . they know that the only way to do this is to make it certain that the same thing will not always happen that has happened this time, that there never shall be any doubt or waiting or surmise, but that whenever France or any free people is threatened, the whole world will be ready to vindicate its liberty.

Because they did not establish this union in time, because they did not organize soon enough and at the most vulnerable points a collective defense prepared for instant action, the democratic nations with their decisions delayed by the interplay of their institutions or by the scruples and indiscipline of freedom were once more thrown into the most destructive of wars. One after the other, nations fell which would have been saved had they joined their forces. And France herself who entered the fight faithful to her word, was wounded on the ramparts, imprisoned for 4 years, and almost destroyed.

If our people had given up, if for a single moment they had hesitated between resistance and collaboration with the enemy, if they had not been willing to subject themselves to an implacable oppression, had not chosen to destroy, often with their own hands, their properties and their tools, rather than work for the enemy, if they had permitted him at times when the fortunes of war were in the balance to have a free disposition of their remaining resources and forces in metropolitan France and in her overseas territories, what would Europe and the world be today?

After such common fights and sacrifices, the achievement of

the final victory must not make us forget the perils to which we were led by an uncoordinated diplomacy and strategy. It is the very old story of the Horatii and the Curiatii. For the goal to be reached is not to liberate a Europe which may once more be occupied, enslaved, exploited, and ravaged, and whose name, you may be sure, would only recall the final ruin of a civilization, but rather, by shielding her against aggression, to protect the whole community of the free nations and in this way to save peace.

In putting into practice an effective union, in which risks as well as efforts must be shared, France has a clear understanding of her duties and of her rights. [*Applause.*]

Her contribution to the defense of freedom and of peace is first of all her own recovery.

Undoubtedly, gentlemen, our people are sometimes disparaged, and they are sometimes guilty of self-disparagement. But those of you whom we have had the joy of welcoming in our country have been able to see the road covered since the liberation.

In 1944, the country was bled white, the state disrupted, 90 percent of our departments were in ruins, our lands were laid fallow, our industrial equipment was pillaged or obsolete, our ports, our means of communication were in shambles, more than two million houses were destroyed or damaged, our economy and our finances were ruined.

In 1951, there is an increased population, republican institutions are reestablished, our production has been raised to the level of 133 as compared with a 100 in 1938, our commercial balance is in equilibrium and our currency stabilized before the rise in prices of raw materials could compromise the equilibrium thus gradually attained, our homes have been built again and the specter of social troubles and of despair has been pushed aside. Gentlemen, it is with pride that I speak of the accomplishments of our workers, of our engineers, of our leaders of enterprise, of our farmers, of our administrators, of all Frenchmen and of their representatives. The generous aid that you have given us through the Marshall plan, for which I am happy to thank you today publicly, has not been extended to us in vain. In giving a decisive impulse to our paralyzed economy, it has again opened for us the way to work and to hope, and by driving away the threat of unemployment and misery, it has preserved us from those social upheavals which are the breeding ground for adventure and tyranny. [*Applause.*]

Though a great deal remains to be done, this first balance sheet of our recovery testifies to the courage of our people, supported by your brotherly assistance.

Our next contribution to the cause of freedom and peace is our

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rearmament effort which our Parliament has voted by a huge majority without hesitation or reservations. This has been done in spite of the already enormous burden of our reconstruction and reequipment and of our military expenditures. It is certainly not the fault of our two nations if world collective security has not been organized, though we consider this failure as merely temporary. The spirit of aggression is foreign to both Americans and Frenchmen. But in the face of threats of totalitarian expansion and the formation of certain mighty groups of powers whose policies and armaments are not subject to the free control of the people, we have turned thoughtfully and inflexibly to regional pacts and especially to the regional pact of the North Atlantic which, conforming to the statutes of the United Nations, has but one aim—to deter aggression and to strengthen the peace. Thus, by our reciprocal undertakings that we shall from now on pool together our resources of arms and troops at all threatened and strategic points, we have made the Atlantic community a solid foundation of our common security and of peace. [*Applause.*]

For us, indeed, the effort for peace and the effort for defense are not contradictory; they complement each other. With the prudence and firmness dictated by our said experience, we shall never cease to answer negation, procedural obstructionism and propaganda in the language of right, of truth, and of sincerity.

Let us not fail to speak clearly, frankly, and firmly. Let us put at the service of peace and freedom, side by side with our material forces as long as those are needed, the invincible moral forces which always animate free people aware of the righteousness of their cause.

We shall not tire, on our part, of repeating the conditions that are necessary for the reestablishment of trust and cooperation among all peoples. Does everyone sincerely want peace? In that case, everyone must respect the commitments subscribed to in the Charter of the United Nations by all the Allies of yesterday; in that case, certain countries must stop interfering in the internal affairs of others in an effort to weaken their freely chosen regimes, to provoke troubles, to paralyze production and to pour daily insults upon their governments.

In that case, international and permanent control by the United Nations Organization of armaments, of all armaments, in all countries, must be accepted, in order to limit fairly and later to destroy all classic or atomic weapons.

In that case, the national armies must be progressively replaced by a United Nations army as provided by the common Charter.

In that case, every country must agree to the free movement of

wealth, ideas, and persons as well as the free and sincere expression of view, under international control of peoples on whom regimes have been imposed by force.

Here are, among so many others, the questions to which answers must be found. And so that they may be answered clearly, I am asking them here, clearly and publicly, before the legislature of a great Nation which is ridiculously accused every day, as is ours, of warmongering, and I am certain that I speak in the name of all the men who want peace with liberty, the only peace worth living for.

Finally, our effort to unite and organize Europe must be considered a contribution to the defense of peace and liberty by all who believe that it is not sufficient to guarantee the security of welfare and justice, enrich their existence and increase their attachment to society.

France is working toward this goal by the creation of communities of production of which the coal and steel pool, that bears the name of its moving spirit, President Schuman, is but a beginning and a preface for others that we are preparing. [*Applause.*] France is working toward this goal through the Council of Europe and the Strasbourg Assembly which she initiated. She is working toward it in seeking the formation of a European army—the nucleus of a future international army—to take its place, first of all, in the great Atlantic army whose illustrious leader, General Eisenhower, I wish to salute here today.

Passionately devoted to the realization of a European federation which will put an end to secular antagonisms, France has put aside her legitimate resentment against the enemy of yesterday, demanding of it only that it bring to the cause of cooperation the admission of its responsibilities as well as the proof of its redemption through the repudiation of its old regime and the sincere attachment to the cause of democracy. Convinced of the need for supranational institutions, France has declared herself prepared to grant to those bodies, in conformity with her constitution and under condition of reciprocity, part of her sovereignty. [*Applause.*] And she hopes to convince the still hesitant nations that they will not curtail their sovereignty but on the contrary strengthen it by associating it with others, by uniting their resources and labor to increase their forces, by developing and coordinating their industrial and agricultural economies, by widening their markets, by raising the standard of living of their workers, in a word, by making of the old divided Europe, slow of decision, torn with antagonisms, distrustful of herself, a new and harmonious organism animated by one soul and

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adapted to the needs and exigencies of the modern world. [*Applause.*]

Patiently and untiringly, we shall pursue the realization of these United States of a free Europe which, with full respect for the independence and dignity of all nations, will join the United States of America to work still more effectively for the welfare and peace of the world. In this way, we shall translate into actuality the prophecy of Victor Hugo who said, 75 years ago, on the eve of the Philadelphia Exhibition:

The future is already foreseeable. It belongs to a united and peaceful democracy. And you, our delegates to the Philadelphia Exhibition, you are beginning under our eyes and the superb realization which the twentieth century will witness: the union of the United States of America and of the United States of Europe. . . . Go, workers of France, go, workers of Paris who know how to think, go, girl artisans of Paris who know how to fight, useful men, brave women, go and carry the good news, go and tell the new world that the old world is young. You are the ambassadors of fraternity. The two continents will exchange not only their products, their trade, their industries, but also their ideas and the progress they make in justice as well as in prosperity.

Gentlemen, I would be happy if today, I could have been one of those useful ambassadors of friendship and of peace. [*Applause, the Members rising.*]

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Charles de Gaulle, President of the Republic of France

Address before a Joint Meeting of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

April 25, 1960

Mr. Speaker, the eloquent words you have just spoken, and for which I want to thank you, were inspired by the reason and sentiment which have at all times distinguished the relations between our two countries. Since the appearance of the United States on the world scene, we have fought side by side on three occasions and for three great causes. First, it was for your independence. [Applause.] Later on it was for the independence of others. Finally, it was for the independence of France herself. Our common past is filled with efforts and sacrifices. It is great because at all times we have served together for freedom. It is dear to us, so much so that in spite of vicissitudes the friendship between Americans and Frenchmen, though two centuries old, is today more alive than ever. [Applause.]

Under any circumstances, I would have come with joy to see my illustrious friend President Eisenhower, to bring to your Congress the very cordial salutations of the French Republic and to renew a direct contact with the American people.

I visited you in 1944, at a time when, under the leadership of Roosevelt, your decisive contribution to the war was to bring about the liberation of France and of Europe. I came back in 1945 on the morrow of the great victories won by the armies of the West, in Europe under the command of Dwight Eisenhower, in the Pacific under the orders of MacArthur, and while President Truman was striving to build a peace both firm and just.

But from that time on, the world was destined to remain beset by troubles and dangers. My present trip is taking place on the eve of an international meeting where the fate of mankind may be oriented either toward calamity or toward peace. This explains the great importance which I attach to the conversations I have just had with the President and members of the administration and also to

Congressional Record, 86th Congress, 2nd Session, vol. 106, part 7, pp. 8643-8644.

... now, for Kuwait

Rev - US
WW I - France
WW II - France

my meeting with you distinguished Senators and Congressmen at the Capitol in Washington.

Indeed, I do not believe that the human race has ever been more threatened than it is today. Mechanism now dominates the earth. It has brought forth gigantic material progress. But at the same time, it has produced two apparently irreconcilable systems, each of which claims it possesses the only workable way to transform society.

Moreover, the convulsions of two world wars have aroused in peoples, who number 2 billion, the will to liberate themselves from all foreign subjection and the passionate desire to reach the stage of development of the most advanced countries. Finally, there is no end to the accumulation and the perfecting of the means of nuclear destruction capable of annihilating life over vast spaces and the vehicles which can carry them anywhere. Given these elements which are bound with one another, the equilibrium of the world is no more than a cold war, a war that engenders fear, incites invectives and engulfs resources, and all problems appear insoluble and envenomed.

But, if in material terms the balance between the two camps which divide the universe may seem equal, morally it is not. France made her choice. She has chosen to be on the side of the free peoples; she has chosen to be there with you. [*Applause.*] Certainly in this decision what counts for much is the memory of what our alliance has been, the help given us under the Marshall plan after the last war to restore our economy, the threat that the Soviet bloc raises for us and for you and finally the colossal effort you are making so that, should the occasion arise, aggression brings death to the aggressor even if it must at the same time cause the death of the defender. But what has led France to your side and holds her there are her national spirit which is a thousand years old, her tradition which made her a champion of freedom, her ideal which has for name the Rights of Man and her conviction that in the end, order in the world calls for democracy on the national plane and the right of self-government on the international plane. [*Applause.*] And these are the very things which are also the vision, the inspiration and the spirit of the American people.

Nonetheless while France has chosen to belong altogether to the gathering of the free peoples, she does not despair at all of seeing peace established in the world.

Since all things have to have a beginning, she believes that only a détente is now possible and necessary. But this détente, who else

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can achieve it, but the nations who have been the creators and who remain the bearers of modern civilization? This means all Europe and America, her daughter. To be sure, the fate of the universe has at other times depended on peoples of other regions. It may happen that, in the future, such might become the case again. But, today, the destiny of our human race depends upon the states of the Old and the New World.

Let them be agreed and no one will ignore them. If this cannot happen then every point on the land, the sea and the sky will undoubtedly contain a virulent cause of conflict. Besides, is it inconceivable that the evolution taking place within each of the two social orders now in existence in the modern nations may progressively reduce their differences and their oppositions?

Until these nations have reached a true *modus vivendi* in their relations, however, any demand that might be made for the conclusion of treaties, the definition of borders, and the modification of statutes in the most sensitive regions, would be unfortunate and untimely, because it would jeopardize the better relations which we aim to establish. On the other hand in the peaceable climate which could be created, objective solutions would little by little come into view.

Everybody understands that, in bringing up such subjects, I am referring in the first place to those which relate to Germany. It is not my intention to deal with them in detail here. But I want to say that any attempt to aggravate the wounds suffered by the German people must be avoided. I will even add that Federal Germany is rendering the greatest possible service to coexistence by incorporating itself as it does into Western Europe. Through the organization of a Western Europe ensemble, facing the bloc built by the Soviets, it will be possible to establish, from the Atlantic to the Urals, some equilibrium between those two zones which are comparable, both in populations and in resources. Alone such a balance may perhaps, one day, enable the old continent to bring a reconciliation between its two parts, to find peace within itself, to give a fresh start to its civilization and lastly to have the possibility, together with America, to help, in an atmosphere of serenity, the development of the unfavored masses of Asia and of the awakening populations of Africa.

Indeed, such aid, offered to the countries that lack everything, is, for those who do not lack anything, both the greatest human duty and the most fruitful policy. How much less the chances of war if the great modern states should choose as a common aim such an

undertaking? What a sigh of relief would pass across the globe if, in this field, above their rivalries, these great states established practical cooperation were it only, to begin with, limited to a few matters.

But, whatever the men who bear the paramount responsibility in the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and France may attempt in a near future toward improving relations between their countries, increasing human, economic, cultural exchanges as well as their cooperation for the development of certain Asiatic or African areas, peace and life will nevertheless be in jeopardy if the temptation and the threat of war remain hanging over the world due to nuclear weapons. To destroy these weapons by common consent, to enter the commitment not to manufacture any others, to open up all territories to reciprocal supervision, there is no other hope for the future of our species. [*Applause.*] One can indeed apply contractual measures first to the vehicles of death, missiles, planes, ships, which, even today, it is possible to prevent from carrying bombs and to supervise in common. It is precisely thus that France recommends that disarmament be started. But we have reached the last moment when an agreement appears possible. Failing the renunciation of atomic armaments by those states who are provided with them, the French Republic obviously will be obliged to equip itself with such armaments. In consequence, how many others will attempt to do the same? In the state of increasing uncertainty in which fear throws the peoples of the world, the risk grows that, one day, events will escape from the control of those who obey reason and that the worst catastrophes will be unleashed by fanatics, lunatics or men of ambition.

Three weeks from now, Messrs. Eisenhower, Macmillan, Khrushchev and myself will compare our views after having done so two by two. I do not think that anyone believes that it will be enough that the four of us sit together for problems of such magnitude to be effectively solved. Perhaps we shall, at last, decide on the road to follow, however long and arduous the stages may be. In any event, my country has determined its purposes and its hopes.

Americans, let me say to you: in the big contest which lies ahead, nothing counts more for France than the wisdom, the resolution, the friendship of the great people of the United States. This is what I came here to tell you. [*Applause, the Members rising.*]

[President Charles de Gaulle's address was translated from French.]

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INTROD

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UNITED STATES
CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**FOREIGN VISITORS
TO CONGRESS**

SPEECHES AND HISTORY

A reference to him could be used in the context of centennial old franco-American friendship.

See De Gaulle's speech for examples of us fighting together. (re: the coalition.)

Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier, The Marquis de Lafayette, Republic of France

INTRODUCTION BY FRED SOMKIN

LAFAYETTE WAS BORN INTO A NOBLE and wealthy French family. At the age of nineteen his idealism was aroused by the American Declaration of Independence and he offered his services in the Revolution. In consideration of Lafayette's important connections, his request to serve as a volunteer major-general at his own expense was approved by the Continental Congress, which was seeking loans and military assistance from France. To the end of his life he was regarded in America as a special protégé of George Washington.

Later Lafayette became prominent in Europe as a champion of liberalism, suffering persecution from French Revolutionary radicals, Napoleon, Austria, and the restored Bourbon monarchy. In 1824, at a low point in his political fortunes, he decided to revisit America. His associates planned to use their reporting of the trip as propaganda against their opponents. Lafayette's intention became known in the United States a few weeks after the issuance of the Monroe Doctrine and coincided with a felt American need for a reassertion of republican nationalism against reactionary European powers. A formal invitation was extended to Lafayette by the president and Congress, with the offer of a warship for his transportation.

For thirteen months Lafayette rode through the states of the Union by steamboat and stagecoach, meeting everywhere with parades and speeches. The new generation of Americans were proud of their prosperity, but sought confirmation from Lafayette as the representative of the founders that they had not abandoned the ideals of their fathers in the race to get rich. This was the implicit theme sounded in Congress by Speaker Henry Clay as he greeted "the nation's guest," and Lafayette answered with the needed reassurance.

In France the American reception of Lafayette provided ammunition for the anti-government forces, and Lafayette himself gained

an improvement in his personal fortunes when Congress voted him a gift of \$200,000 and a township of land. For the American people the great tour provided an occasion for one last expression of national unity before the break-up of the "era of good feelings" and the beginning of the divisiveness that was to lead on to the Civil War.

Marie-Jo The Mar

*Address before
Representative
December*

the House of Representatives and their House make choice of the person they think the principal American I am proud to be a dear revolutionary uncandid and those testimonies which no American

My obligations might claim to be adopted have been characterized by affection and being invitations hour of which testimonies and suggestions

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Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier,
The Marquis de Lafayette, Republic of France

Address before a Joint Meeting of the U.S. Senate and House of
Representatives

December 10, 1824 (167 yrs ago)

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: While the people of the United States and their honorable representatives in Congress have deigned to make choice of me, one of the American veterans, to signify in his person their esteem for our joint services, and their attachment to the principles for which we have had the honor to fight and bleed, I am proud and happy to share those extraordinary favors with my dear revolutionary companions. Yet it would be, on my part, uncandid and ungrateful not to acknowledge my personal share in those testimonies of kindness, as they excite in my breast emotions which no adequate words could express.

My obligations to the United States, sir, far exceed any merit I might claim. They date from the time when I have had the happiness to be adopted as a young soldier, a favored son of America. They have been continued to me during almost half a century of constant affection and confidence; and now, sir, thanks to your most gratifying invitation, I find myself greeted by a series of welcomes, one hour of which would more than compensate for the public exertions and sufferings of a whole life.

The approbation of the American people, and their representatives, for my conduct during the vicissitudes of the European revolution, is the highest reward I could receive. Well may I stand "firm and erect," when, in their names, and by you, Mr. Speaker, I am declared to have, in every instance, been faithful to those American principles of liberty, equality, and true social order, the devotion to which, as it has been from my earliest youth, so it shall continue to be to my latest breath.

You have been pleased, Mr. Speaker, to allude to the peculiar felicity of my situation, when, after so long an absence, I am called

Register of Debates in Congress, 18th Congress, 2nd Session, vol. 1, pp. 4-5.
[The Marquis de Lafayette appeared before the U.S. Senate on December 9, 1824, but he did not give an address.]

to witness the immense improvements, the admirable communications, the prodigious creations, of which we find an example in this city, whose name itself is a venerated palladium; in a word, all the grandeur and prosperity of these happy United States, which, at the same time they nobly secure the complete assertion of American independence, reflect on every part of the world the light of a far superior political civilization.

What better pledge can be given of a persevering national love of liberty, when those blessings were evidently the result of a virtuous resistance to oppression, and of institutions founded on the rights of man and the republican principle of self-government? No, Mr. Speaker, posterity has not begun for me—since, in the sons of my companions and friends, I find the same public feelings, and, permit me to add, the same feelings in my behalf, which I have had the happiness to experience in their fathers.

Sir, I have been allowed, forty years ago, before a committee of a Congress of thirteen States, to express the fond wishes of an American heart. On this day I have the honor, and enjoy the delight, to congratulate the representatives of the Union, so vastly enlarged, on the realization of those wishes, even beyond every human expectation, and upon the almost infinite prospects we can with certainty anticipate.

Permit me, Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the House of Representatives, to join, to the expression of those sentiments, a tribute of my lively gratitude, affectionate devotion, and profound respect.

Louis J

INTRODUCTIO

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THE HOME BOOK OF QUOTATIONS

Classical and Modern

SELECTED AND ARRANGED BY
BURTON STEVENSON
Editor *The Home Book of Verse*

I can tell thee where that saying was born
SHAKESPEARE, *Twelfth Night*
Act i, sc. 5, l. 9

TENTH EDITION

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY
NEW YORK

France quote
Martinique color
Remarks by French
leaders to Joint
Sessions of US Congress.
4 books - John

¹ My thoughts and wishes bend again toward France.

SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*. Act i, sc. 2, l. 55.

² That sweet enemy, France.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY, *Astrophel and Stella*. Sonnet xli.

³ And threat'ning France, plac'd like a painted Jove,

Kept idle thunder in his lifted hand.

DRYDEN, *Annus Mirabilis*. St. 39.

⁴ "They order," said I, "this matter better in France."

LAURENCE STERNE, *A Sentimental Journey*. Ch. i, l. 1.

These things are managed so well in France.

BRET HARTE, *The Tale of a Pony*.

III—France: Her Faults

⁵ The thirst for truth is not a French passion. In everything appearance is preferred to reality, the outside to the inside, the fashion to the material, that which shines to that which profits. opinion to conscience. That is to say, the Frenchman's centre of gravity is always outside him,—he is always thinking of others, playing to the gallery.

AMIEL, *Journal*, 22 Jan., 1875.

⁶ France, fam'd in all great arts, in none supreme.

MATTHEW ARNOLD, *To a Republican Friend*.

⁷ The most frivolous and fickle of civilised nations—they pass from the game of war to the game of peace, from the game of science to the game of art, from the game of liberty to the game of slavery, from the game of slavery to the game of licence.

WALTER BAGEHOT, *Literary Studies: Shakespeare*.

Fickle in everything else, the French have been faithful in one thing only,—their love of change.

SIR ARCHIBALD ALISON, *History of Europe*.

⁸ My scrofulous French novel.

ROBERT BROWNING, *Soliloquy in a Spanish Cloister*.

⁹ Never was there a country where the practice of governing too much had taken deeper root and done more mischief.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, *Writings*. Vol. vii, p. 445.

¹⁰ Have the French for friends, but not for neighbors.

EMPEROR NICEPHORUS, when treating with the ambassadors of Charlemagne in 803.

¹¹ Others import yet nobler arts from France, Teach kings to fiddle, and make senates dance.

POPE, *The Dunciad*. Bk. iv, l. 597.

¹² 'Tis better using France than trusting France.

SHAKESPEARE, *III Henry VI*. Act iv, sc. 1, l. 42.

¹³ The faithless vain disturber of mankind, Insulting Gaul.

THOMSON, *The Seasons: Autumn*, l. 1076.

¹⁴ The cross of the Legion of Honor has been conferred upon me. However, few escape that distinction.

MARK TWAIN, *A Tramp Abroad*. Ch. 8.

We distribute tracts, the French distribute medals.

GEORGE MOORE, *Meissonier and the Salon Julian*.

IV—France: Her Language

¹⁵ Ther was also a Nonne, a Prioresse, . . . And French she spak ful faire and fetisly, After the scole of Stratford atte Bowe, For French of Paris was to hir unknowe.

CHAUCER, *Canterbury Tales: Prologue*, l. 118. (c. 1386)

¹⁶ The Frenchman feels an easy mastery in speaking his mother tongue, and attributes it to some native superiority of parts that lifts him high above us barbarians of the West.

J. R. LOWELL, *On a Certain Condescension in Foreigners*.

¹⁷ The French tongue, which is the speech of the clear, the cheerful, or the august among men.

JOHN MORLEY, *Rousseau*, p. 436.

Speak in French when you can't think of the English for a thing.

LEWIS CARROLL, *Through the Looking-Glass*. Ch. 2.

¹⁸ It is the true and native language of insincerity.

ALFRED SUTRO, *A Marriage Has Been Arranged*. Referring to the French language.

V—France: The French

¹⁹ The French are wiser than they seem, and the Spaniards seem wiser than they are.

FRANCIS BACON, *Essays: Of Seeming Wise*.

²⁰ Frenchmen are like gunpowder, each by itself smutty and contemptible; but mass them together, they are terrible indeed!

S. T. COLERIDGE, *Table Talk*.

²¹ The Frenchman, easy, debonair, and brisk, Give him his lass, his fiddle, and his frisk, Is always happy, reign whoever may, And laughs the sense of mis'ry far away.

COWPER, *Table Talk*, l. 237.

²² Much like the French (or like ourselves, their apes), Who with strange habit do disguise their shapes;

Who loving novels Receive the manne
DU BARTAS, *Devil*
i, day 2. (Sylv)

¹ The French woma
a Parisienne, and
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EMERSON, *Uncoll*

There is a quality
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Attributed to Wi

Every Frenchwoma
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(Toute Française,
Sait, bien ou mal,
VOLTAIRE, *Le Bé*

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W. S. GILBERT, *I*

² I hate the French
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GOLDSMITH, *Ess*
abled Soldier.

³ Fifty million Fr
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⁴ The French are
a book on every
SAMUEL JOHNSC

⁵ A Frenchman lo
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HENRY SETON I

⁶ Why, is it not a
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SHAKESPEARE, *I*
l. 32.

⁷ A nation of mor
rots.

JOSEPH SIEYÈS,
to Mirabeau.

Your nation is di
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VOLTAIRE, *Lett*
Nov., 1766.

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HAWTHORNE, *J*

⁸ If they have a
LAURENCE STE
The Address

⁹ I do not dislike
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2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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DECEMBER 16, 1989, SATURDAY

SECTION: FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

LENGTH: 6382 words

HEADLINE: CB

JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE

BY PRESIDENT BUSH AND PRESIDENT MITTERRAND
FROM ST. MARTIN, CARIBBEAN

KEYWORD:

BUSH/MITTERRAND P.C. FROM ST. MARTIN -12/16/89

BODY:

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: (Through interpreter.) Ladies and gentlemen, we have just completed our political conversation, and we have spoken for several hours of those subjects which seem most important, given the turn of events in the world. You already have the lists, I can imaginem, just in your own mind.

First of all, the evolution of Europe and naturally, Eastern Europe, and particularly, Eastern Germany, without forgetting others.

Recent meetings with Mr. Gorbachev, the conclusions or what we could infer from these conversations, enable us to compare point of views and our impressions.

And -- I'm waiting for the sound to be completely adjusted. Can you hear?

(Laughter.)

And at the same time, we dealt with all the subjects connected to the conference on their forms of disarmament and the forms of assistance, name of the banks, vis-a-vis, eastern countries.

And -- moving from this major problem, we dealt with it on other matters, such as Lebanon, for instance. And we considered the evolution of mind or attitudes, vis-a-vis of problems arising for peace; and the various pressing statements of the Secretary of State, Mr. Baker -- what we both thought about it and what could be done to take into account the rapid evolution of events and situations.

It would be ridiculous to let themselves be superceded by events, and at the same time, one needs to assess them. Things move fast. They moved very fast in these past few weeks, and they might move very fast in the coming weeks. And let us seriously consider what is going on from day to day without losing sight of a desirable perspective. Well, this is a list. It's a pure description, what I'm doing here, as I would like, to the journalists who came to St.

Martin -- I would like to leave it up to you to stress those points you're most interested in.

But, first of all, I would like to say how very pleased I was to be able to receive President George Bush. It's a very great pleasure and a very great honor for our country, as we are here -- here at home in French land, and they're our neighbor and friend -- a personal friend as well -- came to talk with us, and to talk about the experience required during these difficult days, our feelings and our values. And I must say that from most point of views, we reached a harmony of views and were able to develop a policy, a common policy, not only amongst ourselves, but with others.

And therefore, I would like to repeat here how very pleased we were in St.

Martin to be able to receive George Bush, not only because as the

President, but also because of the people he represents. And it occurred

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very informally, as you see, as it always does. I felt, somewhat the same atmosphere of -- we had in Kennebunkport in the home of George Bush, and it continued exactly in the same spirit. And I would very much like this to go on for a long time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you, Mr. President. Let me simply thank you for your hospitality, everyone else in St. Martin. And to say that, as with our earlier talks, not just in Maine, but in Paris at the time of that glorious celebration, off in the corner at NATO, I learned a lot. I can say to this distinguished group that I feel that France and the United States, regarding these dynamic changes that are taking place, are very close together. And I would also add that I think it is very important that France and the United States be close together as we discuss the changes that are taking place. So, sir, thank you very much for your warm hospitality. I have only one complaint -- put it this way, one regret, and that is that we have to leave this beautiful paradise on such a short time schedule. But you were wonderful to come all this way, and from the American side, my sincerest thanks to you, sir.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Well, a lot of people are asking for the floor. First of all, as we're in France here, American journalists therefore. Obviously, I can't recognize you. Yes, sir?

Q (Off-mike) -- for both Presidents. I understand that one area of disagreement between the both of you was on the subject of export controls on highly sensitive goods shipped into Eastern Europe, the so-called COCOM regulations.

President Bush, I wonder if at this point, since you're making overtures in other areas, you feel it's time to relax these regulations? And also if President Mitterrand would respond, too, if you and the United States are in more agreement today on this than you were before the meeting?

PRESIDENT BUSH: One, I did not have a discussion with the President of France on that subject. Two, we should and will review our COCOM -- our participation in COCOM, our discussions in COCOM. There are certainly still legitimate national security interests that must be preserved, and I don't think we have one iota of difference with France on that. But I think it is timely that we take a new look at some of the commercial constraints.

Q Could I follow that up, sir? When you were in Malta, you promised President Gorbachev certain economic concessions, including observer status in GATT. In the last couple of days the Congress of Peoples' Deputies has seen them move away some of the perestroika reforms of President Gorbachev. Were the things that you promised contingent on certain things happening in the Soviet Union?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Well, there are certain things happening in the world, certain things happening in terms of the necessary steps that'd be taken inside the Soviet Union. But I would not say -- I would not say that I've seen anything in the last couple of days that negates my hopes for doing business with the Soviet Union along the lines President Gorbachev and I talked about.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: (Through interpreter.) I'll answer along the same lines. Yes, the situation changing. It is normal for our regulations to become more flexible, to which extent -- at which rate it would feel(?) this is still something which has to be resolved by technical diplomatic discussion amongst ourselves.

Yes, madame?

Q (Off mike) -- Wednesday in Paris. What achievement you would like to see out of this dialogue? And if I may ask, President Bush, are you hopeful for a dialogue, Israeli-Palestinian?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: (Through interpreter.) Well, that was not at all the center of our conversations, although this is a very important subject. We couldn't talk about everything. And I must say that we talked about the Near East. We dwelled on Lebanon. Well, obviously we discussed Israel, but Israel

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vis-a-vis the Arab countries was not raised in sufficient, clear way for me to be able to give you anything new. So let's talk about Lebanon, if you like. For Lebanon we recalled our positions, which I myself expressed on French television to give the opinion of my country -- for the opinion of my country, rather. And I said that we had supported the Paris Agreements, and we recognized the various elements, the implementation of these agreements as from the moment the Lebanese parliamentarians accepted them and elected a president of the republic, and then another one who appointed a government. So it is a legitimate government -- a legitimate situation which can be justified only in seeking a dialogue and civilian peace amongst Lebanese which must therefore exclude any foreign intervention. But, it is legitimate, and I express this view in writing at various times to General Aoun. We French feel very close to all Lebanese, and particularly to those who feel threatened, and it's not always the same at the same time. But we do think that the best guarantee for all is the law, the situation of legitimate constitutional order, and we believe that it would be wise for everybody to recognize this supreme law.

In any case, such is the position of France. I discussed this with President Bush, and I don't think that we were in any disagreement on the subject.

PRESIDENT BUSH: No, and your question that you directed to me -- yes, that's what the Baker points -- five points are about. That's what Mr. Mubarak was attempting to do to get dialogue and discussion going on the West Bank which would include Palestinians. So, we are for that, and I'm hopeful that the meetings that Secretary Baker will be having after the first of the year with the foreign ministers will move that peace process forward. We are committed to it.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: It will be easy for me to add my own opinion, very briefly -- we can't and you can't solve the problem of the Palestinians without the Palestinians. Yes, sir?

Q (Inaudible) because I think there is a problem between Libya and France, and also there is a problem between America and Libya, so do you have a shared point of view on your relations with Libya?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Are you putting the question to me? Yes, very well. So -- our relations with Libya have been fairly complicated. Well, first of all, there was the war in Chad. And we supported these forces of the legitimate Chadian leaders so as to reconquer their independence, their sovereignty, and the unity of their country, which meant that we countered the ambition of Libya, which indeed created a rather difficult atmosphere. But this war was won by the Chadians. This country has become what we expected of it, free and sovereign, and it will regain its unity, and therefore we consider that our actions fulfilled this objective, but it took five years' patience and struggle, but it is done now. At the same time, a bone of contention was disappearing with Libya at the same time. And if obviously this country had feelings of revenge vis-a-vis Chad, they would find themselves in exactly the same situation vis-a-vis us.

Other events have occurred which touch the United States of America more. I do not think that it's up to me to discuss this subject. One can only hope to see countries of Magreb and North Africa prefer the ways of peace and the refusal of terrorism to the means of war or international disorder. And it is along these lines that our diplomacy continues to have a dialogue with ups and downs with the Libyan leaders. And I express the hope, why shouldn't this come to an end, obviously in respecting the rights of people?

PRESIDENT BUSH: I'll simply say that we have not changed our view on Libya. I know that some countries are reaching out a little more today to Libya. We are not. We have not seen the hard evidence that we'd like to see to show a renunciation of international terror. And until we do, there will be no

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improved relations between the United States and Libya.

Q Mr. President, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: It's really very difficult to make a choice. Yes, please? Behind! Behind!

Q French Journalist. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, what was your reaction after the proposal and suggestions of the American Secretary of State, Mr. Baker, in Berlin as to the reform of NATO and as to the construction of Europe, faster(?) and more and more open?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Well, there are quite a few elements in this very important statement which obviously meet with my approval. It is very important to become aware of the future of the Community, and of the necessary acceleration strengthening its structures. It's very important, as well, to be aware of the importance of the CFCE (?) conference on measures of security which must be decided by the European countries, plus United States and Canada.

A whole series of these proposals go exactly along -- I mean, but our views -- we think that the very future of Eastern Europe is conditioned by the way Eastern countries organize themselves, structure themselves, coordinate their efforts, and endow themselves with common source.

I often made this comparison -- including with President Bush -- if the horses of the team don't move at the same speed, there will be an accident. And we have to deal with the German problem, in particular and that of Eastern Europe at a pace which must be harmonious. It must be in step with that of European construction. And I must say that Mr. Baker's statement on the subject seemed to show great understanding of the needs of Europe.

Afterwards, there was the part that had to do with the evolution of the alliance and the content of NATO. Well, this is a subject to be discussed. We do not refuse. When a situation changes, the content of alliances may change. And we belong to this alliance, although we have a special status within it. We are fully aware of our obligations as allies, as others must have as well in the same way. So, now, this subject is under study. The ideas were launched before the world public opinion, particularly Europe, and I have not yet met with my European partners since this major statement.

But, I agree on one point -- we cannot stay where we were before the collapse of all the walls that existed between the peoples of Europe, and likewise, the concept of antagonists of enemies. A possible conflict no longer arises in the same terms, or at least, I hope. But, we need, as the President George Bush was saying before, we need to know and observe the evolution of the forthcoming months, which remains uncertain and which needs some time to rest, so as to enable us to see exactly what is going on. At the present time, we see the major trends, and one can plan those perspectives, but we need this now to be completed before drawing any diplomatic and military consequences.

PRESIDENT BUSH: May I -- may I just add one word, Mr. President? We've spent a lot of time talking about Eastern Europe, on the dynamic changes taking place there and inside the Soviet Union. And I would simply not go into detail on this answer except to say that I feel very close to President Mitterrand's views here. Secretary Baker had a chance to go over these matters with Roland Dumas, and I think there is -- there may be some nuances of difference. But, in terms of the big questions of Eastern Europe, I feel -- I would say simply reassured that President Mitterrand and I are viewing these the same way.

Mr. President, would it be all right to take under the policy of dual recognition the man that thought he had been recognized here? (Laughter.)

Q Thank you. Well, my question is to President Mitterrand. (Laughter.) Rich Faber (ph), a correspondent of the Haitian Information Agency. So, during your visit to South America, President Perez of Venezuela suggested holding an international conference on Haiti, and I would like to know whether you

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discussed it with President Bush and if so, did he agree?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: (Through interpreter) We did not at all discuss this, as you think. But this is an important subject and, which might come up in our next exchange of correspondence, and I am sure we'll have many of those in 1990. Q (Name inaudible.) Do you fear an increase of terrorist attacks either blind or striking American interests in Europe, and did you evoke any reason -- the reasons for better protecting ourselves against terrorism?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Well, quite a lot of information seems to show that there might be some awakening, reawakening of terrorists intents, particularly in some regions of the Near East. But from there to actually go on to the act and even specify the intention, I mean, there may be a great distance and I cannot prejudge this. I really don't know. The duty of states is to protect ourselves against terrorism, and nothing can be done which might weaken the moral, psychological, and practical defense of police and security against such danger. From this point of view, as many others, we have had relations of work and trust with the US and we shall continue.

PRESIDENT BUSH: We add to that that the cooperation has been superb and I was delighted yesterday -- this was not discussed today -- but delighted yesterday when the Colombian government brought to bay the, I think the man who is ranked as the third most prominent narco-terrorist in Colombia, Mr. Gacha. And that was a very courageous, courageous effort on the part of the Colombians; and we have all different kinds of terrorists. This narco-terrorism is simply outrageous and unacceptable, and when you see a president of a battled country, and Colombia fits that description, doing its level best to bring them to justice, I think we ought to all salute him.

Q (Inaudible) on East Germany, do you have any specific prescriptions to keep the situation from running wild? Apparently it's quite different from what was going on in Poland and Hungary. Mr. President, perhaps some instant food aid as winter approaches? Is there some special way to treat the East German chaotic situation?

PRESIDENT BUSH: I don't know there's a special way, but we spelled out at NATO the four points that relate to German reunification -- the Strasbourg declaration under the meeting headed by President Mitterrand addressed themselves to that question. Obviously, if there's emergency food aid required there -- we have no request for that -- but if it's required, we would be very responsive, as I expect others in the Alliance would be.

Q Mr. President -- President Bush, do you now have a special relationship with the French government and President Mitterrand that rivals the supposed special relationship with the government of Mrs. Thatcher, and can you discuss that for us?

(Some audience laughter)

PRESIDENT BUSH: Well, put it this way, there's not supposed to be any rivalry of this nature. We have a special relationship with the United Kingdom. I think everybody knows it. I'd like to think I have a very special relationship with President Mitterrand, and I can tell you that the ability to pick up the phone, no matter what the subject is, as I have done on occasions and he has done on occasions and have honest exchanges of information, has been extraordinarily helpful I think to both sides. I can speak for the US. So I hope it is a special relationship, but perhaps I ought to let the President of the Republic speak to that.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Well, I mean -- we're not sometimes sentimental competition. I mean, there is room enough for several friendships in life. I don't see why without necessarily moving to excess -- I mean, you know the poet who wrote of the enumerable heart -- well, not enumerable, but one may have one's heart open to several friendships (audience laughs). And then -- to

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classify isn't easy. They're also very French -- a very interesting thing that's called the map of love -- well, to you journalists -- well just -- the map of love in French is up to you to decipher this map. It's not mine. But, what I do certainly hope is that we keep very close friendship with the United States of America as we shall have with the United Kingdom.

(Some discussion in French)

Q Given that answer before January 20th, 1989?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Before the 20th of January? What happened on the 20th of January? (Laughter) You seem to remember my own feelings more than I do myself. I would have said -- even before Mr. Bush's election, is that what you mean? I mean from what I am able to deduce? Because you need a triple translation to get to your meaning. I got a long very well with Mr. Reagan, and now that he's no longer President of the United States of America, and I would want to say anything that might seem slight or restrictive, that's the way history was, and now with Mr. Bush we are working together, and I think in a very good, close understanding. But to say more on what you're interested in, sir, that is -- well -- just kind of sentimental press. I'm certainly not going to say any more. Yes, sir.

Q President Bush, General Noriega of Panama, who has long been a thorn in the side of the United States, has just this week declared war on the United States. How do you respond to this last outrage of General Noriega?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Well, I don't respond to it. I notice that he was made supreme leader, or something of that nature. It has not changed our view of him at all. He is a narcotics -- an indicted narcotics dealer. And he ought to get out. And the minute he got out, the relations between Panama and the United States would improve dramatically. And not only is he a narcotics -- indicted narcotics dealer, but he singlehandedly aborted the free will of the Panamanian people -- the will being expressed in open and free elections. And Mr. Noriega singlehandedly sent out his dignity battalions to beat up the elected vice president and to keep the will of the people from being fulfilled. And that is unacceptable as we see the world -- particularly in these times when we see the world moving more and more towards democratic change.

Monsieur.

Q President Mitterrand, I'd like to ask you if you discussed in any way China, and what you think of President Bush's decision to send his envoys to China recently? And if I could follow on that, Mr. Bush, if perhaps you've had second thoughts about the nature in which this was done, in the secretive fashion, and in the toasting of the Chinese while your envoys were there?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: (Through interpreter.) Thank you for this question. Well, I should have said in my presentation, indeed we did talk about China, and this was at the initiative of President Bush, who himself expressed the wish of being able to give us his views on this subject and the reason for what was done. So, I think now you might hear this.

PRESIDENT BUSH: I have no second thoughts at all. And being somewhat familiar with China, I've learned that you listen to everything that's said in a toast. We've looked at every word and analyzed it, and I'm strongly supportive of this mission by General Scowcroft and Larry Eagleburger. I've said that I initiated it and I'm not going to go further, except to say that I hope that it will have positive results.

And we've already seen an indication -- a couple of indications of that, but I think, knowing China, again, I think time is required. But -- this is a billion plus people, and I do not want to hurt the billion plus people further, and I think we've made the right step and only time will tell how this leadership in China views the mission.

Q Is there any agreement between France and the US to slow down Mr. Kohl in

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his drive toward reunification?

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: (Through interpreter.) I have your answer. Is there an agreement or conformity of view to slow down? Yes, there's a great conformity of views -- particularly to slow down the -- as to -- considering slowing down Mr. Kohl, that's a specific matter. But we think that everything as was said in Strasbourg is to be done in the respect of treaties and the principles of Helsinki.

And that at present there are two states. And if the evolution seems to strengthen and hasten, it would be a good thing for the German authority to contribute at the same time to give up the construction which is indispensable for the new European political order, community, CSC(?) etc. Chancellor Kohl was telling me this yesterday as we were together in Switzerland and he says it constantly; and there is no reason to doubt this, that I did not set any timetable to the aspiration which is that of all Germans and particular mind towards reunification. Therefore I am not precipitating events even though I do hope for this. This is what Mr. Kohl said.

In any case, he is to conform with the treaties and agreements which preside today to the European balance. And therefore I don't have any particular complaints. Chancellor Kohl is -- Germany -- he's a German patriot and he obviously has reflections(?) which are not mine. But the main thing, when we are together and when we speak as responsible for our own countries, we sketch an outline which we can agree, and in any case, I shall be meeting with Chancellor Kohl on the fourth of January. And next, he shall be coming to see me in France.

Yes, sir?

Q Mr. Bush about China, do you believe that other countries that follow the United States' lead on sanctions should now relieve those sanctions to lighten them? And how would you feel if they did that against your wishes?

PRESIDENT BUSH: I think each country has got to make its own determination, but I think basically, if I had to answer yes or no, I'd say -- I'd say no. I think they've got to wait and see how matters evolve. That's what we're doing, and I think it's prudent.

And for those who suggested that I have normalized relations with this power because of one visit, they simply are wrong -- off the reservation on that. So I think that's a matter for other countries to determine.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Yes, over there. I didn't give the floor to that end of the room. Yes? Which paper?

Q Mr. President. Yes?

(INTERPRETER:) I can't really -- I can't really see you, I mean -- but that's your -- I'm terribly sorry. You're saying -- you're standing in the shadows, but you're able to move out of the shadows, nonetheless, if I give you the floor --

Q Thank you, Mr. President. May I continue to say, Thank you, Mr. President?

Well, obviously the question of evolution of the east was the major question today but the question of a nonevolution in the east is also a major question. The question of Romania in particular. Is there a common -- a position of common action been decided or will be decided? Well, a common position is very easy to determine this is a regime which we condemn. These are behaviors which are unacceptable and intolerable, in fact. And this is in Romania in relation to the sovereign state.

I mean, we deplore the situation that the Romanian people have to live in and we do hope that the winds of freedom, which have been blowing through other countries of Europe will also come to Romania, so our feelings cannot be misunderstood.

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And for the rest, I presume they have nothing to add.

Q Monsieur Mitterrand.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Yes?

Q Also on the Romanian --

Excuse me, may I have your answer on the problem of Romania after what President Mitterrand has just said?

PRESIDENT BUSH: My response is "ditto." The same. (Laughter.) We view Romania as 'way behind the power curve in terms of change and it's too bad that they are behaving as they are, but let's hope they'll get the word, too.

Q Mr. President, my question is addressed to you on Lebanon. If General Aoun refuses to leave, do you approve of a military operation against him, and did you discuss this situation with President Mitterrand?

PRESIDENT BUSH: We did discuss the Lebanese situation. Both of us want to see a bloodbath avoided there. It is the position of the United States that Mr. Hrawi is the head of government there and recognized as such and that, in our view, things would be much benefited if Mr. Aoun left. But I will let President Mitterrand obviously address himself on that point. But we are together in working as best we can to avoid bloodshed, and we have supported the tripartite agreement, and again, I'd like to salute them here, because without that, I don't think this process would be anywhere along, and so let's just hope they can resolve this matter without the loss of a lot of innocent life in Lebanon. It plagues me, particularly at this joyous time of the year, that Lebanon is having this terrible, terrible grief.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: I have already stated my views on this.

Q Do you still have differences on accepting President Gorbachev's offer to move the CFCE talks from 1992 up to 1990? Did you, considering your affection for each other -- were you able to sway each other's opinion on this? And if not, could you explain your different opinions?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Well, I have already stated in -- (inaudible) -- in particular that I agreed for this meeting to be held -- (inaudible) -- next year, because I think that the events at the pace they are moving should be followed closely. But I haven't tried to proselytize vis-a-vis President Bush. And I think -- I mean, he can (see matters/manage?) for himself.

PRESIDENT BUSH: (Off-mike) -- very well indeed, and when I talked to Mr. Gorbachev, we talked about trying to complete the conventional force agreement so we would have a CFE summit. I also expressed an open mind about the CFCE, but we want to know a little more about that, so we had a very good meeting -- so we had a very good discussion with the President of France to understand it better. That matter, incidentally, was not raised by me -- to me by President Gorbachev, as you may remember. So this was an interesting discussion, and I think I understand the hopes of President Mitterrand as a result of the discussion.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Yes?

Q Do the two of you disagree over whether CFCE or NATO should be the proper forum, and within the Alliance, for discussing the changes in Eastern Europe?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Well, these are two meeting places which are equally important. For the time being, the advantage of CFC is that it groups all European countries -- all of them, which is not the case of NATO, which is an expression of an alliance, and this is why it had been proposed that we give another content to NATO. But that's not -- we have not. But to deal with today's reality, and today's reality is that all European countries can debate within CFC which is desirable, and is not at all in contradiction with any new behavior or any new evolutions in NATO. But we have not advanced sufficiently in this field for me to be able to say more.

PRESIDENT BUSH: I'd simply say there are many forums. You've got CFCE, you

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got the EC, you've NATO, you've got the G-7. You have a wide array of groups that are interested in the peaceful, democratic evolution change in Europe. And so it isn't a question of one or the other, and I think I would simply say the President of France expressed it very well there.

Q May I follow that up --

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: You've already spoken -- haven't you spoken already?

(Laughter) Microphone --

Q May I simply ask sir, do you feel that as the need for the American military -- again? Do you feel that as the need for the American nuclear shield recedes, that American political leadership of NATO will recede as well?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Well, all this some day we will discuss amongst ourselves. We cannot prejudge any result to a situation which is evolving obviously. If the risk of conflict and antagonism between the two blocks recede, obviously the military content of the Alliance could change. But, it is nothing else I can add to this. Yes. You sir?

Q Mr. President, do you expect that the rapid changes occurring in Eastern Europe will have a spill-over effect in other areas of the world, particularly in South Africa, and probably here in the Caribbean in Cuba?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: And who is the question addressed to?

Well, I mean, it's a difficult question -- practically impossible. It's true that failure of the Eastern European systems will obviously have a spillover effect on other regions of the world where their system was imitated. It's likely. You take a country such as Benin, which has just officially stated that it renounced its definition, criterium of Marxism-Leninism, but, as I say, cannot prejudge of the reactions of those countries that you have mentioned.

Q (Through interpreter.) Same question to you and to President Bush. You met with President Gorbachev for a very long time recently. I imagine he discussed the difficulties he has within his country. Do you have the feeling that he will outlast the winter?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: Yes, and probably beyond that, as well. I hope I'm not wrong.

Yes, madame?

Q (Through interpreter.) My question is to the President of the United States. Mr. President, Mikhail Gorbachev quite often mentions his idea of the common European house. Is there any room for you Americans in this common house? What kind of house would you like it to be? What model house, what layout? Could you tell us about it -- the kind of house that you would like to see?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Yes, I think that even Mr. Gorbachev recognizes a role for the United States in this common European home. We talk about a Europe "whole and free." He talks about a "common European home." He talked to us about wanting to see the United States remain involved. So, I don't find any countries suggesting that the United States should decouple from Europe, even the bloc countries. I know that the countries in Eastern Europe, to whose leaders I've talked -- Poland and Hungary certainly feel that way.

So I don't think you're going to see out of all this dynamic change a tendency to try to push the United States out of Europe. You might see some isolationistic pressures develop in our country that I will fight, because I don't want to see us decoupled from Europe. I don't want to see us "pull out" of Europe, if you will. I want to see us work with the EC, as I talked about and as Secretary Baker elaborated on. So, I don't think there's any pressure to see us disengage, you might say.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: (Through interpreter.) You know, it's very difficult, amongst all the questions, the hands that are raised -- yes, behind? And then come to you afterwards.

Q My question is to President Bush -- I have a question of Panama. Noriega,

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obviously -- well you intend to try and get rid of him, but it's known that when you're responsible for the CIA, he also collaborated with the CIA. Don't you think that your margin for maneuver here is a very narrow one indeed?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Yes, I think -- (inaudible) -- with the Central Intelligence Agency but I think its narrow margin for maneuvers -- it's a good way of putting it -- but that doesn't lessen our determination to see the Panamanian people get what they want and that is a democratic form of government. And it doesn't lessen my determination to see this indicted drug deal -- dealer brought to trial.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: We're reaching the last questions because we do -- we are short of time now. Yes, sir?

Q Mr. President, can you tell us as you approach the next budget year in the United States, can you confirm for us that you are considering real dollar cuts in the US defense budget? And considering a meeting like this one, can you let us in on some of your thinking? When you think about those budget cuts, are they driven by the legal necessity in the United States to reduce the budget, or rather by events in each -- Eastern Europe?

PRESIDENT BUSH: I think events in Eastern Europe are driving some to suggest that we can dramatically slash our defense budget. I will resist that. I can't give you a final figure, the budget will be put to bed from administration's standpoint early this coming week. But I would not look in dollar terms for cuts. There are places we can save and we're going to be always looking for them. But I will resist these euphoric views that we no longer need a very strong defense. We do need it. And I think our European friends understand that. I would like to move forward in the arms control agenda that we've got before us, talking about START, chemical weapons, and conventional forces, and that should not be the end. We should move beyond those. As you know, we've instructed the Pentagon to do some very serious analysis in terms of looking at what kind of force will be needed into the future estimating as best they can what the threat will be. So, we're in the process of doing that right now. But I would not look for the administration to send up dramatically reduced levels of spending in defense. I hope some day that we can have a far different force, and deployed far differently. But we are not going to unilaterally pull away from our friends in NATO without serious consultation, and we're not going to pull away from our obligations elsewhere. But we are reviewing the whole defense budget given the changes that have taken place.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: It is impossible to prolong this press conference. Sir, no -- you already spoke, I'm sorry. No, you've already spoken, no, no, sit down. You already asked a question. Many others might complain that they weren't able to do so. Yes, one last question. You sir.

Q I would like to ask President Mitterrand if you extended on behalf of the EC an invitation to the United States to join this bank for European reconstruction and development, and I would like to ask President Bush what the US position is in terms of joining that bank?

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: I told President Bush that I had precisely signed in Paris just before I left, I signed a letter in which I invite the United States of America to participate in the creation of capital and the -- and this bank. And my letter was sent to many other directions because it's not a bank of the community. It is a bank which goes far beyond this. It's to the 24 -- to all those who wish and who are able to -- including to Eastern European countries, and particularly the Soviet Union, if they were to accept to make the necessary effort that Mr. Gorbachev has already given me his agreement. It was -- thank you very much. We have to leave you now. Thank you President Bush, once more. Oh, here -- he will answer you, yes. But afterwards, we leave.

PRESIDENT BUSH: We discussed it, expressed keen interest in it and decided

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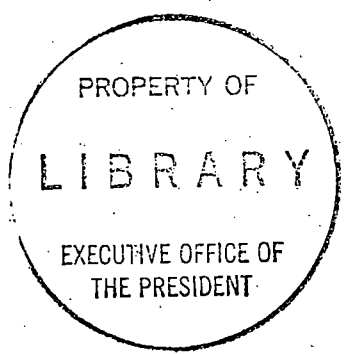
that we would talk about it further. But the United States is very interested in that proposal, would be interested in being a part of it, but at this juncture we need to know a little bit more about the details of it, that we gave a positive indication of American interest to President Mitterrand.

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND: I have already planned a meeting to start the work on 15th of January next, and in the meantime will no doubt have the necessary answers. Thank you, and thank you particularly to President Bush, who did prove his friendship coming here to St. Martin. And I wish him now Godspeed.

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Not for naught did the Arawaks name Martinique *Mandinina*, which means "Island of Flowers." This is one of the most beautiful islands in the Caribbean, lush with exotic wild orchids, frangipani, anthurium, jade vines, flamingo flowers, and hundreds of vivid varieties of hibiscus. Trees bend under the weight of such tropical treats as mangoes, papayas, bright red West Indian cherries, lemons, limes, and bananas. Acres of banana plantations, pineapple fields, and waving green seas of sugarcane show the bounty of the island's fertile soil.

The towering mountains and verdant rain forest in the north lure hikers, while underwater sights and sunken treasures attract snorkelers and scuba divers. Martinique appeals as well to those whose idea of exercise is turning over every 10 or 15 minutes to get an even tan or whose adventuresome spirit is satisfied by finding booty in a duty-free shop. Francophiles in particular will find the island enchanting.

This 425-square-mile island, the largest of the Windward Islands, is 4,261 miles from Paris, but its spirit (and language) is French with more than a mere soupçon of West Indian spice. Tangible, edible evidence of that fact is the island's cuisine, which is a tempting blend of classic French and Creole dishes.

Columbus sailed near Martinique in 1493, but it was not until his fourth voyage in 1502 that he came ashore at Le Carbet. He paused long enough to remark, "My eyes would never tire of contemplating such vegetation," and to put ashore a number of goats to provide fresh meat for future visits. His eyes very quickly tired of the snakes he saw slithering about in his new-found Eden, so he weighed anchor and put water between him and them, never to return.

By the time Columbus made his way to Martinique, the cannibalistic Caribs had long since arrived on the island and eaten the Island of Flowers's Arawaks. Carib arrows kept outsiders at bay until 1635, when Pierre Belain d'Esnambuc, a Norman nobleman and adventurer, landed with a group of 100 settlers at the mouth of the Roxelane River. The French promised the Caribs the western half of the island, but instead polished them off and imported African slaves to work their sugarcane plantations.

By the mid-17th century, Martinique was an important sugar-producing island. Britain wanted to pluck the pearl away from the French, and the two nations fought over the island until the mid-19th century. In 1815, the island was ceded by treaty to France, and French it has remained ever since.

Martinique became an overseas department of France in 1946 and a *région* in 1974, a status not unlike that of an American state vis-à-vis the federal government. The Martinicans vote in French national elections and have all the benefits of France's social and economic systems. The island is governed by a prefect who is appointed by the French minister of the interior. Martinique has one of the highest standards of living in the Caribbean.

Before You Go

Tourist Information Contact the French West Indies Tourist Office (610 5th Ave., New York, NY 10020, tel. 212/757-1125). You may also obtain

Before You Go

information from the **French Government** New York, NY 10020, tel. 212/757-1125; Beverly Hills, CA 90212, tel. 213/272-2444; Ave., Chicago, IL 60611, tel. 312/337-6333; Center, Dallas, TX 75258, tel. 214/720-4444; Suite 250, San Francisco, CA 94102, tel. 415/774-4444; McGill College (490), Montreal, QC H3A 2W9, tel. 514/288-4264; 1 Dundas St. W., Toronto, Ont., Canada M5G 1Z3, tel. 416/977-4444; Piccadilly, London, United Kingdom W1 6911).

Arriving and Departing By Plane

Minerve Airlines (800/765-6065), a French carrier, flies twice weekly nonstop from New York to Martinique (December through early April). **Air France** (tel. 800/433-7300) has daily service from U.S. cities to San Juan, from which the Air France wing flies on to Martinique. **Air France** also flies direct from Miami and San Juan; **Air Caribbean** (tel. 800/433-7300) has service from Montreal and Toronto; **Air Canada** (tel. 462-0700) flies in from neighboring islands; **Air Caribbean** (tel. 596/51-09-90) has service to and from Dominica, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad.

From the Airport

You'll arrive at Lamentin International Airport, a 15-minute taxi ride from Fort-de-France. Taxis from the Trois-Ilets peninsula where most hotels are located.

Passports and Visas

U.S. and Canadian citizens must have a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the date of departure (or proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or a voter registration card, not photocopied) accompanied by a government-authorized photograph. British citizens are required to have a passport. In addition, all visitors must have a return or onward ticket.

Customs and Duties

Items for personal use, including tobacco, are admitted free.

Language

The official language is French, and you will find it difficult to get by with English unless you have either a nodding acquaintance with French or a good phrase book. While it is true that French is spoken in the tourist hotels, some English is spoken, but with difficulty understanding it. Most menus are in French, even in the major tourist areas, waiters and waitresses do not speak English. And rare is the Martinican on the island who speaks English. Outside the major tourist areas you'll certainly have to resort to charades if you don't know a few words of French.

Precautions

Exercise the same safety precautions as you would in any big city: Leave valuables in the hotel safe-deposit box, lock your car, with luggage and valuables stashed in the trunk. Also, don't leave jewelry or money unattended.

Beware of the *mancenillie* (manchineel) tree: Its sap is extremely poisonous. Sap and even raindrops falling from the leaves can cause painful, scarring blisters. The warning signs posted by the Forestry Commission are in French.