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FM PARIS 021430Z APR 84
TO PRIORITY F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 421 OF 2 APRIL
INFO BONN, WASHINGTON.

1) cc Protocol D

Sir P Moore, Buckingham Palace
Sir R Amuliong, Cabinet Office
COLES
Mr Butler, No 10

YOUR TELNO 249: 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY.

2) Enter + bu on 24/4 to check pos'n

SUMMARY

1. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ARE ALIVE TO THE DANGER THAT WARTIME ALLIES WHO ARE NOW MEMBERS OF THE WARSAW PACT MIGHT ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORMANDY LANDINGS.

18/5/4.

DETAIL

2. THE RUSSIANS, POLES AND CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE ALL SOLICITED OFFICIAL INVITATIONS TO THE CEREMONIES ON 6 JUNE. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH HAVE DECIDED TO LIMIT SUCH INVITATIONS TO THE HEADS OF STATE AND/OR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THOSE ALLIED NATIONS (UK, US, CANADA, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY) WHOSE TROOPS FOUGHT ON D-DAY ON THE NORMANDY BEACHES IN THEIR NATIONAL UNIFORMS. THE GRAND DUKE OF LUXEMBOURG, WHO IS A NORMANDY VETERAN, HAS ALSO BEEN INVITED AS THE PERSONAL GUEST OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND. ALL OTHER NATIONS, INCLUDING THE FRG, WILL BE INVITED TO BE REPRESENTED AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL AT THE PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL CEREMONY AT UTAH BEACH ON 6 JUNE. THE FRG AMBASSADOR IS ALSO APPARENTLY INTENDING TO REPRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT AT A GERMAN NATIONAL CEREMONY ON 6 JUNE AT THE GERMAN CEMETERY IN NORMANDY.

3. THE FRENCH HAVE PROPOSED THAT PRESIDENT MITTERRAND ALONE SHOULD MAKE A 10-15 MINUTE SPEECH AT UTAH BEACH. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE THE FRENCH ATTACH TO FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS, I AM SURE HE WILL CHOOSE HIS WORDS CAREFULLY TO AVOID OFFENDING GERMAN SENSITIVITIES.

FRETWELL

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