

President Chirac: State Visit

We now have a draft programme, discussed with Buckingham Palace, for President Chirac's forthcoming visit. I enclose a copy. We have attempted to accommodate the President's desire for a minimum of pomp and ceremony, and have aimed to show him a modern, dynamic Britain. The traditional Guildhall dinner has, for example, been replaced by discussions with business leaders followed by a lunch given by the Lord Mayor.

We are approaching the point where we will have to begin to firm up the programme. I should be grateful for your comments on it. We will take discussion further with the