

PRESIDENT CHIRAC: STATE VISIT

1. You asked for my comments on draft programme of 9 January for Chirac's forthcoming visit (attached).

2. Comments on the programme elements suggested in the draft are as follows.

TUESDAY

Arrival. We have yet to confirm with the French that Chirac will be arriving by rail. We have also to confirm that he has accepted the carriage ride along the Mall.

WEDNESDAY

No 10. No 10 have yet to confirm that the PM will meet Chirac on Wednesday morning and that he wants to have two hours of talks. No 10 have suggested that the PM might want to offer lunch following the talks.

Address to Parliament. Chirac's address to Parliament has yet to be confirmed. wrote to the PS/Lord Privy Seal on 1 December asking whether Chirac could be invited. As far as I know he has yet to receive a reply.

City Element. Several options have been suggested for Chirac's visit to the City. programme sets out one of them. The Paris Embassy have consistently argued for a working visit with less formality than the City normally lays on, and concentration on modernity rather than tradition. This would be more in keeping with Chirac's style.

Business Park. We have yet to agree on a suitable business

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and can we keep the Lord Mayor at his function?