

H EMBASSY
LONDONPRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 212 B/84OPS
cc. Master
Subject:
FRANCE
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Dear Prime Minister,

Last June, at the London summit of the industrialized countries, I indicated that following a symposium on the sciences of life and man organized, on the initiative of the Japanese Prime Minister at Hakone, it was the intention of France to set up in the spring of 1985 a new international symposium on questions of "bioethics", a vital area which our countries are only just beginning to explore.

I would therefore ask you to nominate three people to take part in this second symposium from 18 to 22 April 1985 at the Château of Rambouillet. As in the case of Hakone, this involves selecting three eminent persons, competent in the major fields under consideration: biology, medicine, philosophy, codes of ethics and social sciences.

The programme for this meeting would be as follows:

- first day : genetic engineering and transfers of genes
- second day : ante-natal diagnosis and new vaccines
- third day : the creation of life by artificial means.

After the first, extremely useful, survey conducted at Hakone it would in fact be desirable to look at specific subjects so that free and detailed discussion on each of them can show our governments the way in the face of actual developments requiring of them what are often difficult choices.

I have asked Professor François Gros, who is Professor at the Collège de France and Adviser to the Prime Minister, to prepare this symposium and he will soon be sending details of the draft programme through the diplomatic channel.

I hope that this conference will enable us to make progress in our reflection on and research into common guidelines on problems concerning the whole of humanity. The spectacular progress made in the sciences of life have very direct consequences on daily life and raise questions with which man has never before been confronted. By choosing from the

outset to encourage a joint approach we shall be doing our duty as governments anxious to work for the interests of future generations.

The Bonn summit of the industrialized countries, which will follow shortly afterwards, could offer us the possibility of discussing our first impressions after the symposium or perhaps even of outlining some prospects for international co-operation in that area.

Complimentary close.

Signed : François Mitterrand.