

## NSA Global SIGINT Highlights US Intercepts of France Complaining About US Intercepts of France

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## Description

Top Secret US National Security Agency report on highlights from signals intelligence intercepts of high-level French government communications. The extract dating from March 24, 2010 summarises communications between the French Ambassador in Washington D.C. Pierre Vimont, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy's diplomatic advisor Jean-David Levitte. The report reveals various potential topics Sarkozy intended to raise with US President Barack Obama during an upcoming meeting in Washington. Topping Sarkozy's agenda is his frustration that the US has backed away from a bilaterial intelligence cooperation agreement which might restrict the US ability to continue spying on France. Other issues include the potential French commitment of military trainers to Afghanistan, a potential European Aeronautic Defence and Space Corporation (EADS) contract for tanker aircraft with the US military, and a trademark dispute concerning the French spirits company Pernod Ricard.

Sensitive Issues on the Agenda When French, U.S. Presidents Meet Next Week in Washington (TS//SI//NF)

(TS//SI//NF) French President Sarkozy intends to raise a number of sensitive topics with the U.S. President when the two leaders meet in Washington on 31 March, according to an exchange last week between the French ambassador in Washington Pierre Vimont, and Sarkozy's diplomatic advisor, Jean-David Levitte. Vimont conveyed that the French President will express his frustration that Washington has backed away from its proposed bilateral intelligence cooperation agreement and Sarkozy intends to continue to push for closure. As Vimont and Levitte understand it, the main sticking point is the U.S. desire to continue spying on France. On the topic of Afghanistan, Levitte noted that Sarkozy is ready to authorize more military trainers but wants clarification on how many are needed, given the conflicting figures from U.S. sources. Another proposed topic was efforts by the European Aeronautic, Defense, and Space Corporation (EADS) to win a tanker aircraft contract with the U.S. military. Vimont revealed cryptically that the deal is moving forward but did not provide any details. Levitte had not expected to put the labeling dispute with Pernod Ricard (the world's second largest spirits group) on the agenda, but Sarkozy had just spoken to the company's chairman who had asked the president to intercede on his behalf. (COMMENT: Patrick Ricard, chairman of the Pernod Ricard board of directors, is said to be one of Sarkozy's wealthy backers.) Vimont characterized the issue as a very political matter in the U.S., and suggested that a direct appeal to the White House might be useful. While Sarkozy intends to broach the issue with the U.S. President, Levitte will talk to the U.S. President's Economic Adviser and Deputy National Security Adviser. Finally, Levitte expected the two leaders to discuss other pressing subjects including Iran, the Middle East Peace Process, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, the Sahel, Russia, China, Turkey, climate change, and the financial situation of several European countries; however, he provided no details on those topics.

Unconventional

French diplomatic

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