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Letter from M. Jacques CHIRAC, President of the Republic, to Mr Carlo Azeglio CIAMPI, President of Italy.

Paris, 15 May 2006

President Ciampi, [handwritten:] Dear Friend,

As you leave office, allow me to add France's voice to the tribute your fellow citizens have paid you for the courage, dignity and skill with which you have exercised your mandate at the head of the Italian Republic.

I especially want to salute your tireless commitment to serving the European spirit and values, and your determination to pursue and deepen the Founding Fathers' project. In this way you have always worked to promote Franco-Italian cooperation and the friendship between our two countries in pursuit of this common goal.

I hope that your firm beliefs and high ideals can continue to benefit these causes in your future activities, for which I send you every good wish.

(complimentary close, with handwritten addition).

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