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French foreign policy

Sir, You rightly welcome the outcome of last Friday's meeting between Messrs Brown and Sarkozy and the excellent atmosphere in which it took place (leading article, July 21). Indeed, on major issues, France and the United Kingdom have decided to act together. Yet, you couldn't help launching two attacks against France's policy.

First, you assert that Mr Sarkozy "was reluctant to commit France to any fresh measures against Russia". But neither France nor any other country was asked to take any measure. France was the first to express strongly and unambiguously her total solidarity with Britain. What measures are you referring to?

Secondly, you add, alluding to a French oil company contract: "Paris has not yet lost its mercantile mindset." But the previous day you wrote: "Britain still wants to do business with Russia." So why this double standard?

In the coming months and years, France and the UK are going to strengthen further their co-operation in many areas. This could well make some people unhappy. They will have to put up with this because it will be good not only for the UK and France, but also for Europe.

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