

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL FILING

750th Anniversary of Berlin in 1987

GERMANY

June 1986

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
30.6.86							
27.4.87							
17.5.87							
22.5.87							
12.6.87							
<p>PREM 19/2/84</p>							

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DS

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bc: PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

22 May 1987

BERLIN

Thank you for your letter of 21 May enclosing a draft reply from the Prime Minister to President Reagan's recent message about Berlin.

I have despatched the message, with one small addition, on the direct line to the White House. I enclose a copy for your records.

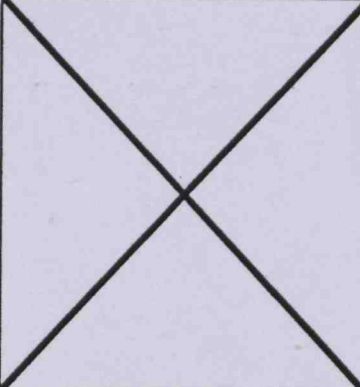
Charles Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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DS

A The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>2184</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>T103/87 PM to US President dated 22 May 1987</i>	
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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 May 1987

CD
245

Dear Charles,

Berlin

Thank you for your letter of 17 May. I attach a draft reply from the Prime Minister to President Reagan.

The great majority of West Berliners (and West Germans) support the Allied presence. But at times they are inclined to regard our need to resist Eastern attempts to erode essential points of legal principle as hindering greater contacts between East and West Berlin. The Allies had for example to express serious misgivings over the wish of the Governing Mayor, Diepgen, to accept Honecker's invitation to a "state ceremony" in East Berlin. Fortunately the invitation to Diepgen was subsequently withdrawn by the East Germans at Soviet behest. Against this general background the positive approach which President Reagan envisages for his speech is welcome.

President Reagan's proposals for events such as conferences which might be held jointly in the Western and Eastern parts of the City present no difficulty from the Western point of view and are likely to be welcomed in Bonn and by the West Berliners. If the East resist them, their obstructive attitude will be exposed.

The President's ideas for developing air travel will however require careful consideration. The use by Allied aircraft of the quadripartitely controlled airspace over Berlin and in the three Air Corridors connecting it with the Federal Republic is regulated by a complex network of agreements and established practices, which in many cases conceal widely divergent views position on the part of the Allies and the Russians. The Allies maintain, for example, that their access rights in the Air Corridors are unrestricted; but in practice Allied aircraft have since 1945 used only the airspace below 10,000 feet (where modern aircraft often experience uncomfortable turbulence). Difficulties in recent years over Soviet airspace reservations in the Air Corridors (about which the Foreign Secretary minuted the Prime Minister on 30 April 1985) have been successfully contained. But the air regime remains potentially vulnerable. The draft reply, while not being discouraging, is therefore cautious on this point.

/President



President Reagan's separate proposal for supplementary flights on North/South routes (ie outside the Berlin air regime) was discussed last year in some detail by officials in Bonn. There is no difficulty on the Western side in pursuing it though, as with the other proposals, the prospects for a helpful Soviet response are not good.

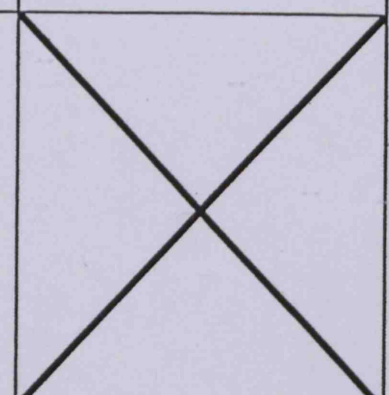
There have been rumours that Gorbachev might himself announce some new initiative on Germany or Berlin at the Warsaw Pact Summit in East Berlin on 28/29 May. It is extremely unlikely that he would alter the established Soviet policy of maintaining the division of Germany, or offer the possibility of the removal of the Wall on anything other than Soviet terms. But any such initiative could nonetheless have considerable resonance in the Federal Republic and West Berlin.

Young ever,
L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

A The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>2184</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 May 1987

BERLIN

I enclose a copy of a message to the Prime Minister from President Reagan setting out a number of themes which he intends to raise in a speech during his forthcoming visit to Berlin. As you will see he asks for a preliminary reaction to his ideas before he leaves for Europe in early June.

BA

I should be grateful for a draft reply by Monday 25 May.

(Charles Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET

FS (7)
 PS/PUS
~~SIR J FRETWELL~~
 MR. RATFORD

HD/WED
 HD/SOV D
 HD/NEWS D

MR D. WEIDNER, ~~DEPT~~ ^{SEC(NATO/UK(P)) MOD.}
 Wg. CDR LUCAS, DCTS NATO) MOD
 HENDRY
 MR WOOD, LEGAL ADVISERS ~~()~~

RESIDENT CLERK

ADVANCE COPY
 IMMEDIATE

15/11/84

CONFIDENTIAL
 FM BMG BERLIN
 TO IMMEDIATE BONN
 TELNO 103
 OF 121605Z JUNE 87
 INFO IMMEDIATE FCO
 INFO PRIORITY PARIS, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, EAST BERLIN

mf

MY TELNO 102 (NOT TO ALL) : PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT TO BERLIN

SUMMARY

1. IN THE EVENT, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION ON THE EVENING OF 11 JUNE, THE VISIT WAS NOT OVERSHADOWED BY INCIDENTS AND MUST BE JUDGED A CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. THE PRESIDENT WAS IN EBULLIENT FORM. HIS SPEECH AT THE BRANDENBURG GATE WAS RHETORICALLY POWERFUL, AND GAINED IN EMOTIONAL IMPACT FROM THE SYMBOLISM OF ITS SETTING. THE BERLINERS GENERALLY WELCOMED ITS POSITIVE TONE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE CITY. HOWEVER, THE SPECIFIC NEW PROPOSALS ON BERLIN DID NOT APPEAR TO MAKE MUCH IMMEDIATE IMPRESSION ON THE AUDIENCE. WE SHALL REPORT FURTHER ON MEDIA COVERAGE.

DETAIL

2. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT TO BERLIN ON 12 JUNE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CITY'S 750TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WAS HIS SECOND TO THE CITY, HIS FIRST HAVING BEEN IN 1982. HE WAS IN BERLIN ONLY FOR SOME FOUR AND A HALF HOURS, AND THUS NOTICEABLY SHORTER THAN THOSE OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND AND, PARTICULARLY, HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN. THE MAIN EVENTS WERE A CALL ON PRESIDENT AND FREIFRAU VON WEIZSAECKERAT SCHLOSS BELLEVUE, A VISIT TO THE REICHSTAG, A SPEECH AT THE BRANDENBURG GATE AND AN AMERICAN STYLE BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR BERLIN AT TEMPELHOF AIRPORT.

3. ON 11 JUNE, SOME 20,000 PEOPLE DEMONSTRATED AGAINST THE PRESIDENT. THIS PROTEST PASSED OFF PEACEFULLY IN THE MAIN, BUT AFTERWARDS THERE WERE A NUMBER OF RELATIVELY SMALL SCALE INCIDENTS. HOWEVER, THESE WERE WELL CONTAINED BY THE POLICE, AND DID NOT REALLY JUSTIFY THE PROMINENCE GIVEN TO THEM BY THE MEDIA, INCLUDING THE BBC WORLD SERVICE. A DEMONSTRATION PLANNED FOR TODAY WAS BANNED, AND AGAIN SUCH TROUBLE AS HAS OCCURRED HAS BEEN QUICKLY DEALT

AND AGAIN SUCH TROUBLE AS HAS OCCURRED HAS BEEN QUICKLY DEALT WITH. THE FEARS THAT THE VISIT MIGHT BE OVERSHADOWED BY VIOLENT CLASHES HAVE NOT BEEN REALISED. NOR IN THE EVENT WERE THERE ANY INCIDENTS IN THE UNTERBAUGEDIET - THE RUSSIANS AND EAST GERMANS KEPT OUT OF THE AREA, ALTHOUGH THROUGHOUT THE VISIT TO THE REICHSTAG AND THE BRANDENBURG GATE, EAST GERMAN GUARDS WATCHED THE PROCEEDINGS CLOSELY FROM THEIR SIDE OF THE WALL.

4. THE MOST MEMORABLE PART OF THE VISIT WAS THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE BRANDENBURG GATE, WHICH WAS PRECEDED BY SPEECHES OF WELCOME BY THE GOVERNING MAYOR AND CHANCELLOR KOHL. A CROWD OF SOME 30,000 PEOPLE HAD BEEN INVITED TO HEAR THE SPEECH. WE THINK (EAST BERLIN MAY BE ABLE TO COMMENT) THAT SOME EAST BERLINERS ALSO LISTENED ON THEIR SIDE OF THE WALL.

5. ALTHOUGH THE AUDIENCE WERE BY THEN RATHER WEARY FROM WAITING WHEN THE PRESIDENT ARRIVED, HE WAS GREETED WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM. AND, THANKS TO THE SYMBOLISM OF THE SETTING, THE PRESIDENT'S MASTERFUL DELIVERY AND HIS USE OF A NUMBER OF GERMAN PHRASES, HIS SPEECH HAD A POWERFUL EMOTIONAL IMPACT. PREDICTABLY, THE LOUDEST APPLAUSE CAME FOR HIS CALL TO MR GORBACHEV, IF HE WANTED PEACE AND LIBERALISATION, TO OPEN THE BRANDENBURG GATE AND TO TEAR DOWN THE WALL. THROUGHOUT THE SPEECH, THERE WAS REPEATED EMPHASIS ON THE INABILITY OF TYRANNY TO WITHSTAND THE IDEALS OF FREEDOM.

6. THE PROPOSALS FOR BRINGING EAST AND WEST BERLIN CLOSER TOGETHER WHICH HAD BEEN FORESHADOWED IN THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER (FCO TELNO 278 TO YOU) WERE ALL PUT FORWARD, BUT THOSE ON AIR TRAFFIC, THE HOLDING OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND YOUTH EXCHANGES DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY GREAT INITIAL IMPACT ON THE AUDIENCE. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE THEY WERE PUT FORWARD IN NON-SPECIFIC LANGUAGE, OR THE EXPLANATION MAY BE SIMPLY

THAT SINCE THE PRESIDENT WAS SPEAKING IN ENGLISH (ALTHOUGH GERMAN TEXTS WERE AVAILABLE) MANY OF THE BERLINERS IN THE CROWD DID NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND HIS WORDS AND THE ALLIES IN THE CROWD DID NOT FULLY APPRECIATE THIS SIGNIFICANCE. INFORMAL COMMENT WAS SCEPTICAL ABOUT WHETHER THEY WOULD COME TO ANYTHING. THERE WAS MUCH MORE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE ONE SPECIFIC, IF SOMEWHAT VISIONARY, PROPOSAL, FOR HOLDING THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN BERLIN IN BOTH EAST AND WEST. WE SHALL REPORT FURTHER ON THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSALS WHEN THERE HAS BEEN A CHANCE TO ASSESS THE MEDIA COVERAGE.

7. FOR THE REST, THE SPEECH CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. THE PRESIDENT DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING VERY NEW TO SAY ON THE BROADER ASPECTS OF EAST/WEST RELATIONS ALTHOUGH HE DID SPEAK, AS HAD CHANCELLOR KOHL, OF HOW THE WEST'S FIRMNESS ON INF HAD BROUGHT AN AGREEMENT WITHIN REACH.

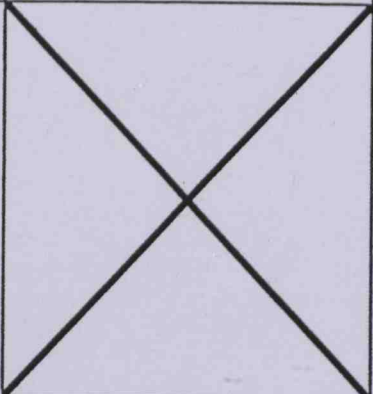
8. IN GENERAL, BOTH THE AMERICANS AND THE BERLIN SENAT ARE PLEASED, AND PERHAPS A LITTLE RELIEVED, AT THE WAY THE VISIT HAS GONE. THOUGH NOT EPOCH-MAKING OR UNIVERSALLY POPULAR, IT WAS IN THE END AN EVENT WHICH HAS HELPED TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN AMERICANS AND BERLINERS AND HAS UNDERLINED IN A WORTHY MANNER THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO BERLIN.

BROOKING

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

27 April 1987

**MESSAGE TO MARK THE 750th
ANNIVERSARY OF BERLIN**

I enclose the text of the message to mark the 750th Anniversary of Berlin which the Prime Minister will record for ZDF this afternoon. I should be grateful for confirmation by 1230 that there are no problems with the text.

(Charles Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ECU

MESSAGE TO MARK THE 750TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERLIN

I am very happy to join with so many others from all round the world in marking the 750th Anniversary of Berlin, and in wishing success to your celebrations.

We are delighted that Her Majesty The Queen will soon be visiting you, to demonstrate once again Britain's unswerving support for your city and its people.

I know from my own visit in 1982 how lively, prosperous and exciting Berliners have made the western part of their city. It stands as a symbol of freedom and of hope, an inspiration to those who enjoy neither.

The Wall that divides your city is the cruellest of the many barriers which Communism has erected against freedom and against democracy.

When I visited the Soviet Union last month, I heard a great deal about the new spirit of open-ness. Of course, we welcome that. But the real proof that open-ness is working will be when the Wall comes down, and Berlin can again be one city. That is our dream and our prayer.

Meanwhile, let me use the opportunity of this anniversary to give you once again a solemn pledge of Britain's steadfast commitment to maintain the Allied presence in Berlin as long as it is necessary. When I spoke in your city in 1982, I said "British forces are in Berlin because there is a vital task for them to do and because you want them to do it". That is as true today. Their presence is living proof of our resolve to defend your right to freedom. We shall not falter.

I send you all my heartfelt good wishes.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 April 1987

CPM/le.

Dear Michael,

750th Anniversary of Berlin

Thank you for your letter of 9 April to Tony Galsworthy asking for a message for the Prime Minister to record for German Television on the occasion of the 750th Anniversary of Berlin.

/ I attach a draft.

Yours sincerely,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

Michael Horne Esq
Press Office
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 June 1986

750TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERLIN IN 1987

Thank you for your letter of 26 June about the celebration of the 750th anniversary of Berlin in 1987. The Prime Minister will want to wait and see what President Mitterrand and President Reagan decide. In the meantime you should not give any impression that the Prime Minister is likely to attend this event.

I am copying this letter to John Howe (Ministry of Defence) and Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 June 1986



Mr. Ryder

For a diary meeting, I think.

*CDP
27/6.*

Dear Charles,

750th Anniversary of Berlin in 1987

The Berlin authorities have informed us that they intend to issue an invitation to the Prime Minister, President Reagan and President Mitterrand to visit Berlin in the context of its 750th Anniversary in 1987. They have suggested that the visit take place immediately after the Economic Summit, for which the Italians are likely to propose dates in early May.

The Anniversary will be celebrated on both sides of the Wall. It is clear that the GDR will exploit it to promote the Soviet Sector of the city as its "capital" and the authentic Berlin. It is an inconvenient fact that the historic centre of Berlin is in the Soviet Sector. The GDR will have the support of the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries in mounting a major propaganda occasion. The GDR is already making efforts to attract artists and leading personalities to East Berlin in 1987.

The Protecting Powers together with the FRG intend to make a major effort to support the celebrations in the Western Sectors of the city. We have proposed that The Queen visit the city to take the salute at Her Birthday Parade on 27 May 1987. On the cultural side a number of important British events are being prepared including a visit by the Royal Ballet.

A visit by the leaders of the three Protecting Powers would be a spectacular demonstration of their continuing resolve to defend the city's freedom and viability. It would be the first by all three together. It would have much greater political and popular impact than anything the GDR and its Allies could stage in East Berlin. The visit, which need not last more than a few hours, could be the occasion for a joint declaration by the three leaders restating the commitment of the Protecting Powers to Berlin.

/Sir Geoffrey Howe

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Sir Geoffrey Howe's advice is that the Prime Minister agree in principle to pay such a visit to Berlin, if Presidents Reagan and Mitterrand are also willing to go. If the Prime Minister agrees, we would discuss the proposal with the French and Americans with a view to preparing a joint response when the invitation is received.

Given President von Weizsäcker's special interest in Berlin as former Governing Mayor, it is possible that he will mention the idea when the Prime Minister sees him during the State Visit (1-4 July).

I am copying this letter to Michael Stark in Sir Robert Armstrong's office and to John Howe in the MOD.

*Yours ever,
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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