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Visit by Austrian Foreign Minister,
2 November 1983 and
~~7 June 1988.~~

AUSTRIA

SEPTEMBER 1983

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
5.9.83							
2.11.83							
10/9/89							
20.10.89							
22.12.89							

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THE PRIME MINISTER

22 December 1989

Dear Alois,

It was very good to see you on 20 December and I thoroughly enjoyed our talk. You raised the possibility of my attending the EDU Party Leaders meeting on Tuesday, 27 February in Paris. I explained that I would certainly not be able to come to a morning meeting because of Parliamentary Questions but might be able to manage a dinner that evening. You said that you would see whether the programme could be varied.

I have now had a chance to look at my diary and fear that the evening of 27 February would also be impossible for me. So I very much regret that I simply shall not be able to attend this particular meeting. I am so sorry inadvertently to have misled you on this - I have an audience of Her Majesty The Queen that evening.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Dr. Alois Mock, C.M.G.

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FILE MJ.

SUBJECT CC MASTER

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

to PC

From the Private Secretary

20 December 1989

Dear Stefan,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

The Prime Minister had a talk this morning with Dr. Alois Mock. He brought no-one with him to the meeting (asking the Austrian Ambassador to wait downstairs). Part of the conversation concerned Party matters and I shall be recording that separately.

The Prime Minister and Dr. Mock had some discussion of developments in Eastern Europe. The Prime Minister complimented Dr. Mock on Austria's constructive role. She also stressed the importance of the West getting over the message of economic liberty. It was clear there were still fundamental misunderstandings in the Soviet Union and East European countries about the nature of capitalism. This had been clear from Mr Shevardnadze's speech the previous day.

Dr. Mock raised the issue of Austria's application for membership of the European Community. He entirely understood that the Community's priority was to complete the Single Market and that applications for membership would not in practice be considered until after that was complete. All that Austria was asking was that its application should be treated exactly like any other. The Prime Minister said that it was likely to be 1993 or 1994 before the Community would really be able to consider enlargement. Completion of the Single Market would constitute an enormous change. Moreover by then the relations between the two parts of Europe would no doubt be very different in ways which could not be foreseen now.

The Prime Minister asked Dr. Mock about the likelihood of German reunification. Dr. Mock thought it would depend on developments over the next twelve months. If genuine democracy could be established in East Germany, then there was a chance that the GDR would continue as an independent state in some close and possibly confederal relationship with the FRG. But if there was an attempt to preserve socialism in the GDR he foresaw a second wave of revolt leading rapidly to reunification.

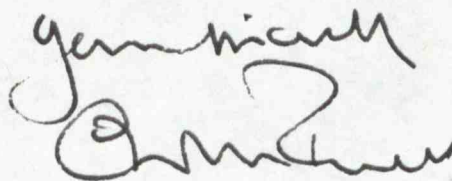
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Dr. Mock was rather gloomy about his own party's prospects in next year's elections in Austria. His successor as Party Chairman, Mr Riegler, was altogether too nice and unwilling to be firm with the Socialist Party. The Prime Minister commented that she had met few people who looked less like a socialist than Chancellor Vranitsky. He was about as representative of his party as Helmut Schmidt had been of the German Social Democrats. This clearly made it more difficult for Dr. Mock's party.

There was no mention at any stage of President Waldheim, the MOD inquiry into allegations about his war-time record or a possible visit by the President to the UK.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve (HM Treasury), Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Charles Powell', written in dark ink.

Charles Powell

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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MR WHITTINGDALE

cc Mrs Ponsonby

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH DR. MOCK

When the Prime Minister met Dr. Mock this morning he mentioned a couple of Party matters.

Dr. Mock said it was important for the EDU to develop links with non-socialist parties in Eastern Europe. It would be a great mistake to leave the field to the Western socialist parties. The EDU would be holding a short party leaders' meeting in Paris on 27 February to discuss this issue and other forms of assistance to Eastern Europe. The meeting would begin with breakfast and last only a half a day. He very much hoped that the Prime Minister might be able to attend. The Prime Minister said that 27 February was a Tuesday and therefore a Questions day and she could not attend any meeting in the morning. If the meeting could be rearranged for that evening she could perhaps be there by 7 p.m. Dr. Mock said that he would consider this.

Dr. Mock expressed concern about the lack of serious American and Canadian participation in the running of the IDU. It had been very welcome to have Vice President Quayle at the IDU conference in Tokyo, but there was no real active support between party leaders' conferences. He was preparing a short paper on the subject and hoped that the Prime Minister might agree to draw on it in future meetings with President Bush and Mr Mulroney, to urge them to give an impulse to the IDU. The Prime Minister said she would be prepared to consider this.

Dr. Mock did not refer to the EDU party leaders' meeting in Helsinki in September.

I am sending copies of this note to Jim Spicer at Central Office and to Morris Fraser in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CDP

Charles Powell

20 December 1989

c: party (MJ)

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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

You are having a talk tomorrow with Alois Mock. He will be accompanied by the Austrian Ambassador. He wants to spend most of the time on Government business but also touch on one or two Party matters.

The background to recent developments in Austria is set out in the FCO letter and the Ambassador's telegram, both of which you will find in the folder.

Dr. Mock has a full programme while he is here including the speech at Chatham House. We are in fact the last EC capital which he is visiting as Foreign Minister, mainly because he has been waiting until after publication of the MOD's report on Waldheim. This has all passed off very smoothly (though you may need to make clear, if the matter is raised, that we still would not think it appropriate for President Waldheim to suggest a visit). If there is a CFE Summit at the end of next year, it is feasible that you could find yourself shaking hands with Waldheim.

Dr. Mock is very much behind Austria's application for membership of the EC. But he understands that any negotiation can only take place after 1993. Nonetheless he will probably want to put on record his strong support for membership and his hope that the right decision will be taken when the time comes. The Austrians have also played an important part over developments in Hungary and he will be anxious to discuss the situation in Eastern Europe with you. You will want to tell him about your meeting with Mr. Shevardnadze.

There is relatively little to discuss on the bilateral front. You will want to thank him once again for the excellent arrangements made for your summer visit to Austria. You may also want to mention our hope that the Austrians will buy Short's Javelin Ground to Air missile.

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- 2 -

On the Party front there are two points likely to come up:

- there is to be an EDU Party leaders meeting in Paris on 27 February (morning only) to discuss assistance to like-minded Parties in Eastern Europe. I am not sure if it really will be feasible for you to attend this;

- the regular EDU Party leaders meeting in Helsinki. You told the Finnish Prime Minister that you would try to attend this, much to his delight. However, it transpires it is on 9-11 September when you will be at Balmoral. Dr. Mock knows this and is likely to say that they would happily change the date if you would agree to go. I think this could be quite a worthwhile 36-hour visit, if suitable dates can be found.

C.D.P.
C. D. POWELL
19 December 1989

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(slh)

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calp
Shp.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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London SW1A 2AH

18 December 1989

Dear Charles,

Meeting with Dr Mock: 20 December

// Dr Mock will call on the Prime Minister at 1000 hrs for half an hour on 20 December, accompanied by the Austrian Ambassador, Dr Magrutsch (personality notes attached).

The visit was postponed from June 1988, following Dr Mock's defence of President Waldheim. It was reinstated in September, once we knew that the publication of the MOD's report on Waldheim the following month was unlikely to revive the controversy.

Later on 20 December, Dr Mock will have talks with the Foreign Secretary, followed by lunch, and will call on the Trade Secretary and the Economic Secretary at the Treasury. He will give an address at Chatham House on Austria's place in a changing Europe. Professor Griffiths is giving him a private dinner. On 21 December, the programme includes a meeting with Mr Kenneth Baker and Sir James Spicer under EDU auspices.

Dr Mock has had a bad year politically. After the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) had suffered a series of local election defeats Mock was replaced as Party Chairman and as Vice-Chancellor by Josef Riegler, a former Minister of Agriculture. Dr Mock's active support for President Waldheim may have contributed to this outcome.

Parliamentary elections are expected to take place in the autumn of 1990. If there is again a "grand coalition" of the ÖVP and Socialist People's Party (SPÖ), Dr Mock would probably be reappointed Foreign Minister.

Austria's economy is doing well. Growth increased from 1.5% in 1987 to 4.2% in 1988. Unemployment fell to 4.6% in 1988. Exports, manufacturing output, and industrial investment all rose (by 11%, 6.5% and 6% respectively). The small stockmarket is booming. The Austrians hope to exploit their already good trading links with East Europe. The government has undertaken to reduce the budget deficit to 2.5% by 1992. Britain exports £542m worth of goods to Austria (year to August 1989): the trade balance is about £350m in Austria's favour.

The Waldheim affair put our relations with Austria into cold storage. Dr Mock's programme of high-level calls should demonstrate to the Austrians that we want to improve matters. He should understand, without prompting, that although MOD's review did not implicate Waldheim in war crimes, sensitivities

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remain: these rule out a visit by Waldheim to Britain. The question of contact with Waldheim could also arise in connection with the meeting in Vienna of Heads of State and Government to sign the CFE treaty in 1990. We need not commit ourselves on attendance yet.

The MOD want to sell Short's Javelin short range ground-to-air missile to the Austrians. If Dr Mock enquires, he can be told that we do not object to such sales of defensive missiles notwithstanding the 1955 Austrian State Treaty which placed limitations on Austria's access to guided missiles. The French and American co-signatories take a similar view.

Dr Mock would welcome a general exchange of views on East-West. The Austrians keep a low profile on the German Question. Dr Mock has confirmed privately that they do not oppose reunification, provided it reflects the wishes of the people in the GDR and does not disturb the post-war order. Austria is a partner, with Yugoslavia and Italy, in the Hungarian Quadrilateral Initiative. The first meeting in November discussed cooperation in transport, communications, the environment and other practical matters. Austria has announced \$3 million for training and a fund for debt/equity swaps aimed at Poland.

The Russians are opposed to Austrian membership of the EC if it would violate the principles of neutrality embodied in the Constitutional law, but there is little that they could do in practice to prevent it.

The Prime Minister may wish to emphasise her support for closer EC/EFTA relations, and the maintenance of the momentum of the current process in line with the conclusions of the Strasbourg Council. The joint meeting of EC and EFTA Foreign Ministers on 19 December should formally launch substantive negotiations on expanded cooperation in 1990. Collectively, EFTA is the Community's largest trading partner (\$220 billion in two-way trade in 1988).

The Austrians are participating actively in EC/EFTA contacts but do not see them as a substitute for EC membership for which they applied on 17 July. The Presidency's letter of acknowledgement flagged up neutrality as an issue for further consideration. The Commission's opinion has been sought in the normal way. The Austrians are anxious that their application should not be overshadowed by events in Eastern Europe. HMG has not yet taken up a formal position on the Austrian application. The Community agree that no decisions on enlargement should be taken until at least 1993.

James Stephen Wall
(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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MOCK, DR ALOIS, CMG

Foreign Minister since January 1987 (ÖVP).

Born 1934. Began career as official in Ministry of Education in 1958. Member of Austrian delegation at OECD 1962. Later, Principal Private Secretary to the Federal Chancellor. Minister of Education 1969-70. Chairman of the Austrian Peoples Party, ÖVP and of the EDU (European Democrat Union) 1979, and of the IDU (International Democrat Union) since July 1979, and of the IDU (International Democrat Union) from 1983-87.

Mock was elected Federal Party Chairman of the ÖVP at the July 1979 party congress after the ÖVP's defeat in the general elections and Dr Taus's resignation. He became Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister in the Socialist SPÖ/ÖVP coalition government formed in January 1987. In April 1989 he was forced to resign as Party Leader and Vice-Chancellor following heavy losses by the ÖVP in regional elections.

Appointed Honorary CMG on occasion of The Queen's State Visit to Austria in May 1969.

Married. His wife is a teacher as well and an active political worker. Both speak excellent English and good French.

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MAGRUTSCH, DR WALTER

Born 1929. Lawyer by training. Entered Foreign Service in 1954. He served in Vienna and abroad in New Delhi, Bonn and Prague before becoming Ambassador to Canada (1974-78) and to Brazil (1978-1981). Deputy Under Secretary (Legal and Consular Section). Foreign Ministry Vienna 1981-87 and from 1986-1987 he was also a second Deputy Secretary General. Ambassador London since December 1987.

Dr Magrutsch is close to Foreign Minister Mock and has shown little sensitivity to public and Parliamentary opinion here about Waldheim.

Dr Magrutsch is married (Elisabeth) with three grown-up daughters.

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MOCK'S VISIT TO LONDON: 20 DECEMBER
SUMMARY

1. CURTAIN RAISER FOR MOCK'S VISIT TO LONDON. THE AUSTRIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM, RIVEN WITH SCANDALS, HAS REACHED A LOW IN PUBLIC ESTEEM AND THERE IS POPULAR DISCONTENT WITH SOME OF THE OLD AUSTRIAN UNDER-THE-COUNTER WAYS OF DOING THINGS, BUT THE AUSTRIAN ECONOMY IS DOING WELL AND THE GRAND COALITION WILL VERY PROBABLY CONTINUE AFTER THE 1990 ELECTION (PROBABLY OCTOBER). MOCK HAS LOST THE LEADERSHIP OF HIS PARTY BUT WILL PROBABLY REMAIN FOREIGN MINISTER BEYOND THOSE ELECTIONS. HIS GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT WAS THE FORGING OF THE AUSTRIAN DECISION TO APPLY FOR EC MEMBERSHIP. WHILE RECOGNISING THAT NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT START BEFORE 1993, HIS TOP PRIORITY IS TO KEEP THAT APPLICATION LIVE AND TO ENSURE THAT THOSE NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT SIDE-TRACKED BY THE EC/EFTA DIALOGUE (ABOUT WHICH THE AUSTRIANS ARE SCEPTICAL), ARGUMENTS ABOUT NEUTRALITY, OR EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE (ESPECIALLY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GDR, THE RAMIFICATIONS OF WHICH HAVE LED TO DEEP BUT UNSPOKEN AUSTRIAN DISQUIET OVER GERMAN REUNIFICATION). AUSTRIANS SEE THEIR MAIN FUTURE ROLE AS CONTRIBUTING FROM WITHIN THE EC TO THE MANAGEMENT OF EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE.

DETAIL

2. MOCK'S VISIT TO LONDON, THE ONLY EC CAPITAL HE HAS NOT SO FAR VISITED AS FOREIGN MINISTER, IS AN IMPORTANT ONE IN AUSTRIAN EYES SINCE IT IS SEEN AS PUTTING BEHIND US THE CLOUD ON INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR. THE CORRECT WAY IN WHICH HMG IS SEEN HERE TO HAVE HANDLED THE MOD REVIEW ON WALDHEIM HAS, PERHAPS PARADOXICALLY, MADE THAT REPORT A PLUS RATHER THAN A MINUS IN OUR RELATIONS.

3. THE SUBJECT AT THE TOP OF MOCK'S MIND WILL NATURALLY BE AUSTRIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE EC AND THE CURRENT DRAMATIC EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE, OF WHICH AUSTRIA HAS A GOOD VIEW FROM THE GRANDSTAND BUT RATHER THAN FROM THE FIELD OF PLAY WHERE IT WOULD REALLY RATHER BE. IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO SET THESE THEMES AGAINST THE PRESENT AUSTRIAN POLITICAL BACKGROUND.

4. AUSTRIA HAS BEEN A CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUCCESS STORY SINCE THE WAR, AND PARTICULARLY SINCE THE 1955 STATE TREATY.

THE GREAT ACHEIVEMENT OF THE POST-WAR GENERATION HAS BEEN TO GIVE TO AUSTRIANS THE SENSE OF NATIONAL IDENTITY AND FAR-REACHING SOCIAL INDUSTRIAL CONSENSUS WHICH THEY HAD NEVER HAD BEFORE. AUSTRIA HAS BEEN AMONG THE MOST SUCCESSFUL OF OECD ECONOMIES WITH VERY LOW UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION AND A HIGH GROWTH RATE, AND HAS DEVELOPED FOR ITSELF AN INTERNATIONAL ROLE BASED ON NEUTRALITY (WHICH AUSTRIANS HAVE PERHAPS REGARDED AS A GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL STABILITY THAN THE REST OF THE WESTERN WORLD HAS).

5. DESPITE THESE SUCCESSES, WITH A NEW GENERATION OF VOTERS AND LEADERS AND THE CHALLENGES OF NEW EVENTS, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH SOUL-SEARCHING, ESPECIALLY OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. DOMESTICALLY THERE HAS BEEN A DEGREE OF DISAFFECTION ESPECIALLY BUT NOT ONLY AMONG THE YOUNG, OVER THE WAY THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN GOVERNED AND OVER THE POLITICIANS WHO HAVE BEEN RUNNING IT. SCANDALS HAVE TAINTED A NUMBER OF LEADING SOCIALISTS MOSTLY INDIVIDUALS WHO FIRST ACHIEVED SENIOR POSITIONS IN THE KREISKY ERA AND WHO HAVE HAD TO LEAVE GOVERNMENT UNDER VARIOUS CLOUDS. THE PEOPLE'S PARTY, IN TURN TAINTED BY THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR, HAVE HOWEVER NOT BEEN ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD HAVE DRAGGED THE SOCIALISTS DOWN BUT FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH VRANITZKY HAS BECAUSE OF HIS CHARISMA AND OBVIOUS ABILITY BEEN ABLE LARGELY TO SAVE THEM. IN MAY 1989 THIS LED TO THE REPLACEMENT OF MOCK, THE LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S PARETY FOR TEN YEARS, BY RIEGLER AS PARTY LEADER AN THEREFORE VICE-CHANCELLOR.

6. RIEGLER, THOUGH EVERYBODY'S MR NICE GUY AND MUCH MORE CONGENIAL TO VRANITZKY PERSONALLY THAN MOCK (NOT LEAST BECAUSER HE IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE SOCIALIST/PEOPLE'S PARTY GRAND COALITION, WHICH MOCK NEVER HAS BEEN), HAS NOT HAD THE PERSONALITY OR LEADERSHIP TO REVIVE THE PEOPLE'S PARTY FORTUNES. NONETHELESS, FOLLOWING NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS (PROBABLY IN OCTOBER), THE ARITHMETICAL POSSIBILITY OF A COALITION BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S PARTY AND THE RIGHT WING FREEDOM PARTY IS NOT EXPECTED TO HAPPEN: RATHER THE GRAND COALITION IS GENERALLY EXPECTED TO BE REFORMED WITH A REDUCED, BUT IN COMBINATION STILL WITH THE PRESENT LEADERS (INCLUDING NO DOUBT MOCK) IN THEIR PRESENT OR SIMILAR POSITIONS. MOCK IS, HOWEVER, SOMETIMES SPOKEN OF AS A POSSIBLE PEOPLE'S PARTY CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN 1992 WHEN WALDHEIM COMPLETES HIS SIX YEAR TERM. HE WOULD DO THAT JOB WELL.

7. MOCK'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT HAS BEEN TO BRING HIS SOCIALIST PARTNERS IN THE COALITION TO AGREE TO APPLY FOR EC MEMBERSHIP, AN ASPIRATION WHICH WAS NOT SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED BY MOST AUSTRIANS EVEN TWO YEARS AGO AND WHICH MANT SOCIALISTS STILL DISLIKE.

VRANITZKY, FORMERLY A BANKER, PLAYED A LEADING ROLE OVER THIS IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY. AUSTRIA'S EC APPLICATION WILL THUS BE UPPERMOST IN MOCK'S MIND. HE WILL NO DOUBT WANT TO BRING HOME TO HMG THE IMPORTANCE NOT NOLLY TO AUSTRIA BUT, AS SEEN THROUGH AUSTRIAN EYES, TO EUROPE OF AUSTRIA'S SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION. HE WILL ARGUE THAT NEUTRALITY, WHICH HE TENDS TO DEFINE VERY NARROWLY IN MILITARY TERMS, SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS AN OBSTACLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE: AND THAT, FOR THE REST, AUSTRIA WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM MEETING ALL THE OBLIGATIONS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING POLITICAL COOPERATION. AUSTRIAN CONCERN NOW IS THAT THEIR APPLICATION SHOULD NOT BE LUMPED BY THE EC WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. FOR MOCK, AUSTRIA'S PLACE IS INSIDE THE COMMUNITY, HELPING TO DECIDE HOW TO ACCOMMODATE THE OTHER ASPIRANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION. HE RECOGNISES READILY THAT NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT START BEFORE 1993, BUT, FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL AS WELL AS EXTERNAL POLICY REASONS, WANTS THE MOMENTUM OF AUSTRIA'S APPLICATION TO BE SEEN TO BE MAINTAINED, NOTABLY BY A VISIBLE PROCESS OF PREPARATORY CONTACTS.

8. THE AUSTRIAN APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP WAS MOTIVATED ENTIRELY BY ECONOMIC FEARS OF THE CONSEQUENCES FOR AUSTRIA OF BEING LEFT OUT OF THE SINGLE MARKET. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A GROWING, IF TACTICALLY MOTIVATED, ASSERTION OF BELIEF THAT AUSTRIA WILL PLAY A FULL AND CONSTRUCTIVE PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. THERE IS AMBIGUITY OVER WHAT THIS MEANS, VARIABLE ACCORDING TO AUDIENCE: TO BRITISH EARS AUSTRIANS WILL EXPRESS MUCH SYMPATHY WITH MRS THATCHER'S VIEWS AS EXPRESSED IN THE BRUGES SPEECH, WHILE TO OTHERS THEY WILL POINT OUT THAT THEY ARE ALREADY EFFECTIVELY IN AN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION WITH GERMANY, SUPPORT THE SOCIAL CHARTER, ETC. WHILE STILL SUPERFICIAL, THIS RECOGNITION THAT THE COMMUNITY IS ABOUT MORE THAN A SINGLE ECONOMIC MARKET IS STARTING TO PUT DOWN ROOTS.

9. THE AUSTRIANS REGARD THE EC/EFTA DIALOGUE AS PATENTLY AN ATTEMPT TO DIVERT THEIR AND OTHER POTENTIAL EC APPLICATIONS. THEIR POSITION IS TO BE SEEN TO SUPPORT IT, TO QUESTION THE ACCEPTABILITY OF MERE DECISION-SHAPING FOR SO HIGH A PRICE IN LOST SOVEREIGNTY, AND TO INSIST THAT, IN ANY EVENT, ANY EC/EFTA ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR FULL AUSTRIAN MEMBERSHIP OF THE EC. IF THE DIALOGUE IS TO COME TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, THE AUSTRIANS WILL HAVE TO BE OUTFLANKED THROUGH SCANDINAVIA.

10. ON EASTERN EUROPE, THE AUSTRIANS ARE, LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, AMAZED BY THE SPEED OF EVENTS, EAGER TO PROMOTE DEMOCRATISATION AND

ECONOMIC REFORM IN THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND NERVOUS ABOUT THE SPEED WITH WHICH ESPECIALLY THE GERMAN QUESTION HAS COME TO THE FORE. THEY ARE BEING DELIBERATELY RETICENT ABOUT THE LAST, REGARDING IT AS NOT THEIR PLACE TO COMMENT OTHER THAN TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GERMANS LIKE ALL NATIONS NATURALLY HAVE THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, BUT IT SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN A WIDER EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK WHICH WILL MAINTAIN STABILITY. VRANITZKY HAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED FURTHER EC INTEGRATION IN THIS CONTEXT AND MOCK WOULD NO DOUBT AGREE. THERE IS NO WILLINGNESS HERE TO REGARD AUSTRIA AS PART OF THE GERMAN STATE OR IN ANY WAY (OTHER THAN AS A VICTIM) AS PART OF THE GERMAN PROBLEM. FOLLOWING THE SO-CALLED SECRET MEETING OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT LEADERS NEAR SALZBURG ON 2 DECEMBER, AND THE SUBSEQUENT EDU MEETING IN MUNICH, RIEGLER AND MOCK ARE SPEAKING FAVOURABLY OF KOHL'S TEN POINTS FOR INNER GERMAN RELATIONS AS WELL AS PROMOTING HELP ON PARTY CHANNELS TO EMERGING EAST EUROPEAN CD PARTIES.

11. THE AUSTRIANS WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE, BOTH MULTILATERALLY (EG THROUGH THE G24) AND BILATERALLY THROUGH TIES WITH THEIR EASTERN NEIGHBOURS THROUGH EXCHANGES, SPECIAL COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS, ABOLITION OF VISAS ETC. THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE VIENNA USED AS A SITE FOR NEW EAST/WEST INSTITUTIONS. THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT, IN THE RUSH OF EXCITEMENT OVER DEVELOPMENTS FURTHER NORTH, WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE NEGLECTING YUGOSLAVIA, WHERE TROUBLE IN SLOVENIA IN PARTICULAR COULD CAUSE THEM BORDER PROBLEMS (REFUGEES). THEY WOULD LIKE TO PROMOTE STABILITY AS WELL AS A ROLE FOR THEMSELVES IN KEEPING WITH THEIR HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS IN THE AREA (OF WHICH THEY ARE VERY CONSCIOUS) THROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION, EG IN THE HIGH LEVEL QUADRILATERAL FORUM (HUNGARY, ITALY, AUSTRIA, YUGOSLAVIA) LAUNCHED LAST MONTH IN BUDAPEST.

12. AUSTRIANS ALSO TEND TO BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE PLAYED AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN WIDER WORLD AFFAIRS- OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING PRIZE JUST AWARDED TO FORMER CHANCELLOR KREISKY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ON THIS BASIS, THEY TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST, AND SOMETIMES ROLE, IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, NOTABLY THROUGH THE UN (PEACEKEEPING, UN CITY IN VIENNA, AUSTRIAN OBSERVERS IN NAMIBIA, MOCK'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF UN CAMBODIAN COMMITTEE ETC.) THERE IS OFTEN MORE APPEARANCE THAN SUBSTANCE TO THIS, BUT IT IS NONETHELESS IMPORTANT TO THE AUSTRIANS AND IS SEEN AS ENHANCING THEIR CLAIM TO BE WANTED BY OTHER WEST EUROPEANS. MOCK IS OF COURSE ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE EDU.

13. IN SUM, THE AUSTRIANS, WHILE RECOGNISING THAT THEY ARE ONLY A SMALL COUNTRY, BELIEVE THEY HAVE, AND SEEK RECOGNITION FOR, A ROLE AS A WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRY ACCEPTED IN THE EC AND, BECAUSE OF HISTORY, GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND EXPERIENCE, ABLE TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND MORE WIDELY.

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FROM: SIR JAMES SPICER MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

R 15/12.

COS 19/12

14th December 1989

Charles Powell, Esq.
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

To follow up our telephone conversation 12/12, Alois Mock will wish to discuss:

1. Proposed EDU Party Leaders' meeting in Paris, 27th February a.m. only.
Background: need for more involvement and assistance to like-minded parties in Eastern Europe. Short meeting with Party Leaders, really to emphasise commitment. Thereafter detailed work delegated.
2. EDU Party Leaders' meeting Helsinki. I believe that both EDU and most particularly the Finns, would wish to change date if 9/11 September proves impossible for the PM. Again, a very short stay - a.m. plus lunch.

SIR JAMES SPICER MP

c.c. The Chairman
Hon. Mark Lennox-Boyd, MP
John Whittingdale, Esq.

CONFIDENTIAL



me pm
ck

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 September 1989

VISIT BY AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 7 September about the visit by Dr. Mock. The Prime Minister will be happy to see him at 1000 on Wednesday 20 December.

BF

C. D. Powell

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

DF

cc/c ①



Charles
Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 September 1989

I think you will want to see him, in the light of the Austrian Government's hospitality in August.

Dear Charles, We would find a fine on 20 December. Agree?

Yes
no
7/9

Visit by Austrian Foreign Minister

You should be aware that Sir James Spicer told the Foreign Secretary that Dr Mock intends to speak to the Prime Minister during the Tokyo IDU Conference about his wish to visit London.

You will recall that a visit by Dr Mock was arranged for 7 June 1988 but was postponed because of the controversy over Dr Waldheim. MOD will publish their Review on 17 October. We can reasonably expect public and press attention to the Review to have died down before December.

I know it's
be in very
keen to follow.

London is the only EC capital which Dr Mock has yet to visit. A visit would be an opportunity to take his mind on Austria's EC application. It should also help repair any damage done to relations by the Waldheim controversy.

For the reasons set out above, the Foreign Secretary proposes to invite Dr Mock to visit London on 5 or 20 December. We would propose to do so before Dr Mock approaches the Prime Minister in Tokyo.

I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister would wish to see Dr Mock during the visit. Your letter to Lyn Parker of 29 January 1988 confirmed such a meeting for the 1988 visit. Such a call will be particularly welcome in Vienna. The Prime Minister may also wish to respond to the hospitality she received from the Austrians during her private visit (when she met Dr Mock).

James,
Stephe Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

capc Eln

29 January 1988

VISIT BY DR. MOCK

Thank you for your letter of 28 January about the visit by Dr. Mock in June. The Prime Minister will see him at 0930 on 7 June for half an hour. I should be grateful for briefing nearer the time.

Brj

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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cc: A (i)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 January 1988

Prime Minister
I think you probably
ought to see him.
Agree?
COP Yes
207: me

Dear Charles

Visit by Dr Alois Mock,
Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister

Dr Mock will pay a working visit to the United Kingdom on 7 June 1988. He will have talks with the Foreign Secretary, who will probably also offer him dinner on that day.

Dr Mock is leader of the Peoples (Conservative) Party in the coalition government in Austria, and until September 1987 was Chairman of the International Democratic Union (IDU). You will probably recall that at the IDU Party Leaders' Conference in Berlin in September 1987 the Prime Minister spoke warmly of Dr Mock's contribution. It has occurred to us that in view of the Prime Minister's long association with Dr Mock in the IDU she may wish to offer him a call during his visit.

We should be grateful to know the Prime Minister's wishes and, if she would like to see Dr Mock, for any indication you can give of when a call would be convenient. (Possible timings might be late morning or mid to late afternoon on 7 June.)

Powder, L. Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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SUBJECT

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cc 1100

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 November 1983

See page.

Visit of the Austrian Foreign Minister

Herr Lanc called on the Prime Minister at 1745 this afternoon for a discussion which lasted until 1820. The Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Bauer and Mr. Alexander were present.

Herr Lanc handed over to the Prime Minister a letter from the Austrian Chancellor inviting her to pay an official visit (a copy is enclosed). He added that he hoped that the Prime Minister would manage to carry out such a visit next year. The Prime Minister replied to the effect that she would much like to pay an official visit to Austria; perhaps the timing could be discussed.

Herr Lanc said that the meetings he had had today with the Anglo/Austrian Society and the Anglo/Austrian Parliamentary Group demonstrated that there were many links between our two countries. These should be strengthened. Tomorrow he would be decorating a UK citizen who had saved the life of a citizen of Austria who had been on holiday here. The Prime Minister said that that would be much appreciated.

The Prime Minister then raised the question of East/West relations. From time to time we tried to reassess our strategy and discern trends. When Brezhnev was still living the main question was who would succeed him. When Andropov had come to power, there had been a suspicious similarity of assessments. In recent weeks we had seen little of Andropov. We were again in a period of uncertainty and there was a particular focus on the disarmament negotiations in Geneva.

We had frequent contacts with our European friends and some, though not enough, with the Americans and Canadians. We had a certain amount of contact with Eastern Europe, but we had very little with the Soviet Union except occasional meetings with Mr. Gromyko. We did not expect to have much influence on the Soviet Union but she did not wish misunderstandings to arise through lack of contact. We were therefore trying to find a way of improving communications. Every time one came to this point, something intervened. There had been Afghanistan and then the Korean airliner incident. Did the Austrians see any possibility

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that West and East were misunderstanding each other? She had noted that Vice President Bush had visited Hungary and Austria. It was important on such visits to get the message right.

Herr Lanc said that in Austria anybody could say anything. The message of last September had caused his country no harm. But he shared the Prime Minister's feeling that there was not enough personal contact or personal knowledge. There were many reasons for that, especially the nature of the Soviet regime. The Soviet Union was very different from the satellites where it was much easier to make personal contact.

To some extent the West needed to think about its own position. Last Spring the media had been full of speculation about an imminent meeting between Andropov and Reagan. Then it had been difficult to achieve a successful outcome to the Madrid Conference. Next, there had been hopes of a better atmosphere in East/West relations. Such hopes had played a part in the United States/Soviet grain agreement (though the strength of the agricultural lobby in the United States and the forthcoming American elections also played a part). But then the Korean airliner incident had intervened. Hopes had been dramatically reversed. Politicians had reacted, perhaps necessarily, to their public opinion. Even in fields where the West possessed the initiative there was sometimes a tendency to over-react. The Soviet Union was quite different; its continuity of policy was unparalleled.

He had exchanged views with Gromyko after the latter's meeting with Genscher. He had derived the impression that the Soviet leadership was very disappointed by verbal over-reaction in the free world. The Russians drew the conclusion that if we painted them as criminals we could not be genuine in our disarmament offers - since no-one would negotiate with criminals. He had felt this very strongly in his last conversation with Gromyko. There was a lack of personal relationships between East and West and that led to a failure to distinguish the true from the false. But how one created better links was another question. However, he found it most interesting that the Prime Minister's thoughts were so similar to those of the Austrian Government. This would encourage him to think further about the problem.

The Prime Minister said that these matters were important. She had seen Vice President Bush since he had visited Austria and knew that he had enjoyed his visit enormously. We were worried about possible misunderstandings between East and West. The media did not help. She recalled a US journalist who had tried to get her to say that Andropov was a "monster". She doubted whether the Americans would have much time for strategic thinking in their election period and she could see little possibility of a meeting between Reagan and Andropov. This might change if the disarmament negotiations took a sudden turn for the better. But it was a chicken and egg situation. Without better United States/Soviet relations the negotiations might not progress. All this became more vivid as people saw Cruise and Pershing being installed. Our basic premise in the West had been that so long as we had nuclear arms we would not have nuclear war. She sometimes wondered if we took that proposition too much for granted. Austria would have more contact with the East than we did. It was a long time since she had visited the satellite countries.

/ Herr Lanc

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Herr Lanc said that there had been a remarkable change in the Eastern European countries in the last 25 years. Improvement had been slow but actual. Economically, all these countries had made progress with the exception of Poland and Rumania. They had learned to live as they had to live - for they knew that no-one in the West could really help them. They had little room for manoeuvre.

The Soviet Union was different. In its size and diversity it was comparable to the United States. The similarities between the two countries were greater than either side liked to admit. But the major difference was that in America lots of diverse people were willing to integrate and become United States citizens while the Soviet Union was a federation of different peoples dominated by Russians. The ethnic problem would be big enough even if there were no others with which to cope.

Austria found it difficult to establish contact with the Russians because they were so pre-occupied with their own problems. Nevertheless their leaders were excellently briefed when they emerged for meetings. The Prime Minister said that it stood to reason that there must be very able people near the top in the Soviet Union. But they were constrained by a system which could not absorb new ideas. Nevertheless, we had to live with it and take it into account. At some stage perhaps the Soviet Union would wish to feel more secure internationally so that it could concentrate on its internal problems. That could provide opportunities.

The Prime Minister has asked that the contents of this letter should be very carefully protected and brought to the attention only of those who need to know its contents for operational purposes.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET

VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY HERR ERWIN LANC, FEDERAL MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
1-3 NOVEMBER 1983

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

Amendment to printed programme

Please delete the appointment with Mr Healey on 2 November, Mr Healey will be present at the talks with Mr Kinnock at 0930 hours on 3 November.

ARRIVAL

When the aircraft has landed a representative of the British Airports Authority will escort the greeting party to the aircraft. The Austrian Ambassador will board the aircraft and accompany His Excellency Herr Lanc to the tarmac. The members of the official suite will follow. The following will greet His Excellency Herr Lanc and his official suite:

Sir John Stow, Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr M O'D B Alexander, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna

Brigadier Alan Cowan, Secretary, Government Hospitality

Gp Cpt Anthony O'Neill, Escort Officer, Government Hospitality

TRANSPORT

Cars are provided throughout the period of the official visit and are allocated as follows:

Car 1 HE Herr Lanc
 HE The Austrian Ambassador
 Group Cpt O'Neill

Car 2 Dr Baner
 Dr Seyffertitz
 Mr Alexander

Car 3 Dr Knitel
 Herr Wiesner

PARTICIPATION OF THE OFFICIAL SUITE IN THE PROGRAMME

The members of the official suite, the Austrian Ambassador in London and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna will accompany His Excellency Herr Lanc throughout the programme except on the following occasions:

Call on the Prime Minister

Dr Bauer
His Excellency The Austrian Ambassador
Mr Alexander

In addition the following members of the Austrian Embassy will also be present:

Talks with Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and The Rt Hon Baroness Young

Dr Wessely

Talks with Secretary of State for Defence

Colonel G S Maximilian Trofaier

Talks with Mr Kinnock and Mr Healey

Dr Hennerbichler

Question Time at the House of Commons

Tickets have been allocated as follows:

Distinguished Strangers' Gallery: His Excellency Herr Lanc, Dr Bauer, Mr Alexander

Ambassadors' Gallery: Dr Thomas

Special Gallery: Dr Seyffertitz, Dr Knitel, Herr Wiesner

Jane H. W. Reid

J H W Reid (Miss)
Inward Visits Section

31 October 1983

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 October 1983

for the

Visit to the UK of Herr Lanc, Austrian Foreign Minister: 1-3 November

The Prime Minister has agreed to see Herr Lanc at 1730 on 2 November. The Austrian Ambassador and Mr Michael Alexander will be present.

Herr Erwin Lanc (pronounced "Lantz"), Federal Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, is paying his first official visit to London from 1-3 November. I attach a personality note. Herr Lanc will have talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe and Lady Young on the morning of 2 November, and will call on Mr Heseltine, Mr Tebbit and Mr Lawson in the afternoon before seeing the Prime Minister. Sir Geoffrey Howe will then host a dinner for him in the evening.

I enclose a background brief on the Austrian internal political scene. There are no bilateral problems. Herr Lanc is likely to be keen to discuss wider international affairs and in particular East/West relations and arms control.

Herr Lanc can be expected to renew Dr Kreisky's invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Austria. The Prime Minister reconsidered the possibility of visiting Austria earlier this year, but thought there was little prospect of doing so in the foreseeable future. No British Prime Minister has visited Austria since the War.

Herr Lanc will be accompanied by HM Ambassador Vienna, the Austrian Ambassador and Dr Bauer, Political Director at the Austrian MFA. I attach personality notes on Dr Thomas and Dr Bauer.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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LANC, ERWIN (pronounced 'Lantz')

Foreign Minister since May 1983. SPÖ.

Born 17 May 1930. Father Trade employee, mother seamstress. Worked as a furniture salesman then in Ministry of Social Administration. Studied law at University of Vienna. 1955-59 Federal Secretary of Austrian Youth Hotels Organisation, then bank employee. From 1965 Director of Information Centre for Local Finances. 1946-54 official Socialist Youth Organisation. 1948 joined SPÖ.

1960-66 Member of Vienna Provincial Diet. 1966 became local Chairman of SPÖ Branch in Margareten district of Vienna. 1966 elected to National Assembly and became one of the party's finance experts. Chairman of Parliamentary Economic Integration Committee. 1973-77 Minister of Transport. 1977-83 Minister of the Interior.

Married (1957) with a daughter and a son. Good English. Warms up on acquaintance and is well disposed to the UK, which he has visited.

VISIT BY HERR LANZ, AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER: 2-3 NOVEMBER

BACKGROUND BRIEF ON THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SCENE IN THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

Introduction

1. The Republic of Austria is politically, socially and economically one of the most stable European countries, with a high standard of living and a relatively strong economy. Her system of Parliamentary democracy is based on the Federal Constitution, the Austrian State Treaty (in which the four powers which had occupied Austria since 1945, ie Britain, the US, France and the Soviet Union, recognised the restoration of Austria as a sovereign, independent and democratic State) and the Constitutional Law on Permanent Neutrality.

2. Austria is a member of the UN, EFTA, GATT, OECD, IEA and the Council of Europe. A major effort has been made to build up the role of Vienna as an international meeting place, most recently through the construction of the Vienna International Centre (opened in 1979) which houses several UN organisations.

The Political Scene

3. Between 1970 and 1983, Austria was governed by the Social Democrats led by Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. In the run-up to the Federal Elections in April, Kreisky agreed to continue as Chancellor for another four years, as long as the SPO retained its absolute majority in the elections. The Federal elections brought a loss of five seats for the socialists and with them the end of the SPO absolute majority:

Social Democrats (SPO) 90

People's Party (OVP, conservative) 81

Freedom Party (FPO, liberal) 12

Kreisky proved as good as his word and resigned in favour of Dr Fred Sinowatz, who now leads a Socialist/Liberal coalition with Dr Norbert Steger as Vice-Chancellor and junior coalition partner. Kreisky's departure from office is unlikely to herald any

fundamental change in Austria, but under Sinowatz she is almost bound to adopt a lower profile in international affairs (see HM Ambassador's Despatch "Austria after Kreisky").

4. The Socialists have recently been shaken by a resurgence of an old internal dispute between ex-Chancellor Kreisky and his former heir-apparent, Dr Androsch (now Director General of Austria's Central Bank). The SPO and FPO both suffered reverses in recent Provincial elections in Lower Austria. But it seems likely that the coalition will hold together at least until the next General Election in 1987. The OVP did well in the April elections. Their dynamic and charismatic leader, Dr Mock, seems to have succeeded in reversing their long decline and is hopeful of an OVP victory in 1987.

5. The Austrian Head of State is the Federal President, Dr Rudolf Kirchsclaeger, re-elected in May 1980 for a second six-year term. Dr Kirchsclaeger does not intend to stand for re-election when his term of office expires in 1986.

The Economic Scene

6. Austria has by current standards a healthy economy. She has not entirely escaped the effects of world recession but she has so far fared better than most. Both inflation and unemployment are low in comparison with the rest of Europe (inflation stood at 2.5% in May 1983, and unemployment at 3.9%), but are nevertheless a source of serious concern to the Austrians. Real GDP grew by only 1.1% in 1982; although future growth is likely to be around the European average, it will be well below the levels achieved by Austria for most of the 1960s and 1970s.

7. A sharply rising budget deficit obliged the Government to introduce a package of austerity measures in October 1983. These include cuts in some Government services, raised tariffs on public transport and utilities, reductions in overtime for public employees and limits on representational expenses. VAT rates especially on energy have been increased. A new tax on interest from savings

deposits has been introduced. These measures are expected to increase inflation and unemployment in 1984. Further measures are expected to help restructure the ailing heavy industrial state sector.

8. True to post-war Austrian political tradition, the Government hopes to achieve the necessary restructuring of its economy through a process of co-operation rather than confrontation. The "social partnership" (between management and labour) which ensures that decisions command a wide base of support, is one of the most striking manifestations of Austrian consensus politics.

BAUER, Dr Friedrich

Political Director of the MFA since September 1979.

Born 23 October 1930. Studied law at the University of Vienna, receiving his doctorate in 1953. Legal practice from 1953-55. Entered the MFA in 1955. 1958-60 Austrian Embassy in Belgrade, 1960-63 Austrian Embassy in Tel Aviv and 1967-73 again MFA where from 1970-73 he was head of the office dealing with international conferences and organisations. 1973-77 Austrian Ambassador to the GDR.

From 1977-79 Dr Bauer was head of the Eastern Department of the Political Section in the MFA. He became Political Director in succession to Dr Steiner. Unlike his predecessor he is close to the Socialist Party.

Married. He speaks excellent English, and is well disposed and approachable. Very professional.

THOMAS, DR REGINALD

Austrian Ambassador to London since 18 February 1982.

After gaining a doctorate of law at the University of Vienna in 1950, Dr Thomas entered the Foreign Service in 1951. His early service was in Berne, Tokyo and the Foreign Ministry, where he was Head of the Office of the Secretary-General from 1962-68. He was then Ambassador to Pakistan (1968-71) and to Japan (1971-75). Since 1975 he has been in the Foreign Ministry, as Head of the Administrative Section and since 1978 also as one of the two Deputy Secretaries-General.

54 years old. He is married with a daughter and three sons.

Both he and his wife speak excellent English.



bc TF

JG

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 September 1983

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 2 September.

The Prime Minister would be glad to receive
Herr Lanc at 1730 on 2 November.

B/F1

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH



2 September 1983

Yes *ms*

John [unclear]

*Prime Minister:
Agree to receive
Herr Lenc?*

Possible Call on the Prime Minister by Herr Lenc,
Austrian Foreign Minister, on 2 November

*JA
2/9*

Herr Lenc, the new Austrian Foreign Minister, is to visit the UK on 2-3 November at the invitation of Sir Geoffrey Howe. The Austrians have indicated that they would greatly appreciate a courtesy call on the Prime Minister in the course of Herr Lenc's visit. HM Ambassador, Vienna, supports this suggestion and further points out that Herr Lenc met President Mitterrand in Arles on 26 August. I understand that the Prime Minister may in principle be free to receive Herr Lenc at 1730 on 2 November.

The Prime Minister has received a number of invitations to visit Vienna, both from Dr Kreisky and from the new Austrian administration. She has not, however, been able to accept. The Austrians are sensitive to the infrequency of high-level contacts between our two countries. They have always given high-level attention to British Ministerial visitors. For example Chancellor Kreisky received Lord Belstead during his visit to Vienna last January. Sir G Howe believes that if the Prime Minister were to receive Herr Lenc, this would be greatly appreciated by the Austrians and would help the relationship at an early stage in the life of the new Austrian Government. The Austrians have a high regard for the UK and for the Prime Minister personally, and a call by Herr Lenc would help to compensate for the disappointment they have undoubtedly felt at her inability to take up their various invitations.

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten signature]

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
No 10 Downing Street

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