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MWB 300/9

From the Private Secretary

28 April 1988

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INVITATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER FROM THE COLLEGE OF EUROPE  
AT BRUGES

Thank you for your letter about the invitation to the Prime Minister from the Rector of the College of Europe to speak at the opening ceremony of the College's academic year in September.

The Prime Minister is willing to undertake this if it can be done on her way to visit Luxembourg. This would mean in practice doing the speech on the morning of Wednesday 21 September in Bruges before travelling on to Luxembourg for talks that afternoon followed by dinner. That in turn would presumably mean departure for Madrid on the morning of 22 September. (The Prime Minister would not be able to do the speech on Tuesday 20 September.)

If you could confirm with the Rector of the College of Europe that a speech on the morning of 21 September is convenient for him, and can also confirm that the Luxembourg Government would be content for the Prime Minister's programme there to take place in the afternoon and evening, I will ask the Prime Minister to reply formally to the Rector accepting his invitation. I am holding on to the letter from him and that from Lord Plumb, and would be grateful if you would let me have draft replies in due course.

We shall also need a very good draft for the speech by the second half of July.

I am copying this letter to Tom Jeffery (Department of Education and Science) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Leo