

Secretary of State Doc

26 APR 1988

(3)

25 APR 1988

FROM: J S Wall

DATE: 22 April 1988

cc: PS/PUS

Sir J Fretwell

Mr Braithwaite

Mr Ratford

Mr Fergusson

Mr Dain, WED

Mr Meyer, News Department

Mr Gore-Booth,

Policy Planning Staff

Mr Paxman, SED

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MWB 300/84

Mr Kemp ✓

PS/Mrs Chalker ✓ 6/24 IV

PS ✓

INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER: COLLEGE OF EUROPE

Problem

- A 1. How to reply to a letter from the Rector of the College of Europe in Bruges to the Prime Minister inviting her to speak at the College in September?

Recommendation

- 2. I recommend that the Private Secretary write to PS/No 10 in terms of the attached draft suggesting that the occasion would be a suitable one for a speech. WED, SED, News Department and Policy Planning Staff agree.

Background

- 3. Professor Lukaszewski, the Rector of the College of Europe at Bruges has passed to Sir D Hannay an invitation

to the Prime Minister to be the guest of honour and speaker at the opening ceremony of the College's academic year this September. The draft letter from the Private Secretary to PS/No 10 gives further background.

4. The Prime Minister has no other speaking engagements on the Continent that would make the timing of a speech in Bruges difficult. She will be in Luxembourg on 21 September on her way to Spain but will not make a speech. It has not been decided whether she will make any speeches in Spain or if so what they would cover; but Mr Powell has suggested that she should not make any major speeches there. Neither the Anglo-Italian nor Anglo-German summits, nor a meeting with the new French President, are likely to involve speeches. The only other outstanding invitation to the Prime Minister to speak on the Continent is from the Übersee Club in Hamburg. WED and Bonn may well recommend in favour of this, but would be content for it to be fixed for next year.

5. A speech in Bruges by the Prime Minister in or around September would not clash with the Secretary of State's own EC speech plans. He may speak to an EC/US dinner in September, but this will be a short introduction to Schluter; and in November he will address the Kangaroo Group in Paris, probably concentrating on single market issues.

6. Although the letter to PS/No 10 gives a fair wind to the invitation from the College of Europe I do not think we should try to sell the idea too hard. There are no overriding reasons why the Prime Minister should make a speech in Europe at present.



J S Wall

European Community Department
(Internal)

worth a run, I think.

Jid Kew
22/iv

Yes 