



Netherlands

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 December 1982

Invitations to Chancellor Kohl, Mr. Fanfani and Mr. Lubbers

I have seen John Kerr's letter of 14 December.

I note that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would find a meeting with the Italians in early March rather inconvenient. I am afraid that we examined earlier the possibility of this Summit taking place in April but there is no day during that month which is convenient to the Prime Minister.

One way of resolving the Chancellor of the Exchequer's difficulty might be to offer the Italians 25 February (one of the dates we were proposing to offer to the Dutch) for the Summit and then give the Dutch a choice of 2 or 4 March. I shall need to know fairly quickly if this suggestion, which I understand from John Kerr would be convenient to the Chancellor, is acceptable to the Italians. If so, and on the assumption that the Prime Minister will need to offer Mr. Fanfani dinner that evening, we shall have to take steps to postpone another dinner to which the Prime Minister is committed on that day.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury), John Rhodes (Department of Trade), Robert Lowson (MAFF), Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

AJ. COLES

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14 December 1982

Roger Bone Esq.
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New Roger,

INVITATIONS TO CHANCELLOR KOHL, MR FANFANI AND MR LUBBERS

We spoke about John Coles' letter of 10 December to Brian Fall. I write now to confirm that a full dress bilateral "summit" with the Italians, involving the Chancellor in rounds of talks with his Italian opposite number, would be rather inconvenient for him in early March. If we are correct in our guess at the nature of the occasion, he would be most grateful if you and No.10 could consider alternative dates, perhaps in April.

The Chancellor assumes that the proposed visit by Mr Lubbers in late February or early March would be rather different, and that Mr Lubbers would not be accompanied by his Finance Minister, Dr Ruding, who was here for talks with the Chancellor last week.

Copies of this letter go to John Coles at No.10 and Richard Hatfield at the Cabinet Office.

Yours ever,

John Kerr.

J O KERR
Principal Private Secretary