



Royal Opera House

Covent Garden London WC2E 7QA
Telephone: 01-240 1200
Cables: Amidst London WC2
Telex: 27988

Prime Minister (2)

From Sir Claus Moser KCB Chairman

ms 23/12

as from
New Court
St. Swithin's Lane
London EC4P 4DU
Telephone 01-626 4356

23rd December 1982

Dear Prime Minister,

Since writing to you on the 16th December, the Minister for the Arts has announced his allocation to the Arts Council; and I am sure all of us concerned with the performing Arts were delighted and relieved that the Government had been able to make considerably more money available than had been expected.

Although we will not know our individual grants until mid-January, it seems clear that the increased money is intended particularly to help the national companies in difficulty. This should remove the main concern that led me to write to you on behalf of the four major Houses, and we feel that we should not now ask to take up your valuable time.

May I say again how delighted we are that the Government has taken this step to help the Arts.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Minister for the Arts.

Yours sincerely

Claus Moser

Sir Claus Moser

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Arts
Minister's
Policy



ACTS AND AMENDS.
J. C. A. G.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

21 December 1982

Dear Mary,

I am writing to confirm that, as I told you on the telephone, I spoke to Sir Claus Moser after your Minister's announcement yesterday and suggested that, in view of the Minister's announcement, Sir Claus Moser should consult the other chairmen of the four great national institutions in the performing arts and let me know whether they wished to press their request to see the Prime Minister. Sir Claus Moser agreed to do so, and indicated that he thought it would be unlikely that the four chairmen would want to take the Prime Minister's time in view of the changed circumstances.

The ball is now in Sir Claus Moser's court and if, as I expect, he confirms that no meeting is necessary, we can leave matters there.

Yours ever,

Miss Mary Giles,
Office of the Minister for the Arts.

Robin Butler

A. H.

ARTS AND AMENS.



L. C. A. H.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

24 December 1982

My dear Claus,

I am writing on the Prime Minister's behalf to thank you for your letter of 23 December.

She is glad that you welcomed the announcement of the Minister for the Arts on 20 December and notes that in the circumstances you do not feel it necessary to pursue your request for a meeting with her. She is grateful to you for writing as you did.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Office of the Minister for the Arts.

Yours ever,

Robin Butler

Sir Claus Moser KCB CBE

A. H.

No act to C.H. necessary.

Ful



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 December 1982

The Prime Minister has received the attached letter from Sir Claus Moser asking if she would be prepared to meet the Chairmen of the English National Opera, the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and himself. I imagine the Prime Minister will wish to agree to the request but I should be grateful for your advice on timing and when necessary for a brief. I imagine also that Mr. Channon would wish to be present at the meeting but perhaps you could confirm this as soon as possible, a telephone call will do.

I am sending a copy of this to John Gieve (HM Treasury).

(TIMOTHY FLESHER)

Miss Mary Giles,
Department of Education and Science.



Royal Opera House

Covent Garden London WC2E 7QA
Telephone: 01-240 1200
Cables: Amidst London WC2
Telex: 27988

From Sir Claus Moser KCB Chairman

as from
New Court
St. Swithin's Lane
London EC4P 4DU
Telephone 01-626 4356

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Prime Minister:

*Agree to
a meeting, subject*

16th December 1982

*to Mr Channas news
as timing?*

Dear Prime Minister,

Yes Mr

H

16/12

I am writing to ask whether you might have time to meet the Chairmen of the four great national institutions in the performing Arts - Lord Goodman (English National Opera); Lord Rayne (National Theatre); Sir Kenneth Cork (Royal Shakespeare Company); and myself (Royal Opera House). We would very much appreciate an opportunity to acquaint you with the predicament which we face on present grant indications, and the adverse reaction there would be abroad to the collapse or decline of any one of us, as our reputation goes far beyond national borders.

There are obviously differences between our four institutions, but we are broadly alike in the seriousness of the situation we face. Though it hardly needs saying, we pride ourselves as being this country's centres of excellence in the theatrical and operatic arts, built up to present levels in the last decade or two. We want to do everything possible to go on bringing credit to this country and happiness to the millions who see our performances in London, in the regions and abroad; and we are desperately anxious not to decline.

We know and greatly appreciate your own enthusiasm for the arts and your commitment to the preservation of excellence. We would be most grateful if you could spare the time for a talk with us.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Minister of State with responsibility for the Arts.

Yours sincerely

Claus Moser

16 DEC 1962



GENERAL