

E.R. ①
PRIME MINISTER

DR. VON WEIZSAECKER

The attached FCO letter says that the above (who in February will take up the CDU/CSU candidacy for the Presidency of the Federal Republic) will be in London on 6 April and possibly 5 April. The question arises of whether you should have talks with him and/or entertain him.

We are trying to keep 6 April free for your speech to the Federation of Conservative Students in Loughborough that afternoon.

You would normally spend the evening of 5 April also preparing for that speech.

Do you want to give Dr. von Weizsaecker dinner on 5 April?

I shall have to ask

Or should we simply offer an hour's meeting with him on that day?

A.S.C.

5 January 1984



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 January 1984

for John

Visit of Dr von Weizsaecker: 5 - 8 April

Dr von Weizsaecker, who will resign in February as Governing Mayor of Berlin to take up the CDU/CSU candidacy for the FRG Presidency, will be in London on 6 April (and possibly 5 April) for the 1984 Koenigswinter Conference, to be held at Cambridge from 5 - 8 April). The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary plans to entertain him to lunch on 6 April, preceded by talks at 1200.

Dr von Weizsaecker last visited the UK as Governing Mayor of Berlin on 1 - 2 April 1982. The programme arranged for his visit then included a call on the Prime Minister on 2 April, but this (along with all other Ministerial appointments) had to be cancelled as a result of the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands. I enclose the Prime Minister's letter of 11 June 1982. The Prime Minister met Dr von Weizsaecker during her visit to Berlin on 29 October 1982, and he called on her at No 10 on 27 April 1983 when he came to speak to the Oxford Union.

Dr von Weizsaecker, whose international standing as Governing Mayor of Berlin is second only in the FRG and Berlin to that of the Chancellor and Foreign Minister, will have held office in Berlin from May 1982 - February 1984. He will take up the CDU/CSU candidacy for the Presidency of the Federal Republic in succession to Professor Carstens when the latter's term of office expires on 30 June 1984. Although the Federal Assembly will not meet to elect the new President until May, the election of Dr von Weizsaecker is virtually certain. Indeed, he may well be unopposed. He is likely to be succeeded in Berlin by Herr Diepgen, the CDU candidate. Elections in the Berlin House of Representatives take place in February.

/It would be



It would be appropriate for Dr von Weizsaecker to be received at a very high level. I understand that the Prime Minister's diary would permit her to see him on the morning of 6 April, and Sir Geoffrey Howe hopes that she will be able to receive him then. If the Prime Minister's diary permits, she may also wish to consider offering Dr von Weizsaecker dinner on 5 April. He will, however, be attending the British Government dinner for the 1984 Koenigswinter Conference, to be given by Sir Geoffrey at Cambridge, on 6 April.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 June 1982

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Dear Dr. von Weizsäcker,

Many thanks for the album of photographs, 'Berlin's Protection Powers', which you were kind enough to send me.

I was very sorry that, because of the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands, we were unable to meet on 2 April during your visit to London. I hope that it will be possible for you to come to London again in the not too distant future and I look forward to seeing you then.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Dr Richard von Weizsäcker

4 JAN 1984

