

Pohl
BT

 PRIME MINISTER

Sir Walter Salomon rang recently to suggest that if you wanted to meet Dr. Pohl, President of the Bundesbank, he would be happy to arrange a dinner.

I have taken soundings about this from the Bank of England. The Governor would not object to such an arrangement though he would regard it as somewhat odd for his German counterpart to be invited to London to meet the Prime Minister through a private dinner rather than through the Bank. He would, however, be put out if he were not invited to the dinner. The Bank would advise against inviting Dr. Pohl to come to 10 Downing Street to meet you officially. This could create a misleading impression about UK policy. For example it could set unnecessary hares running over our intentions on EMS.

My advice would be against following up this suggestion. If Dr. Pohl comes to London I believe it should be as the guest of the Governor. Sir Walter could be told that, while you are grateful for his proposal, you do not believe it would be appropriate for Dr. Pohl to be invited to London to meet you at a private dinner. It would, in any case, be difficult to maintain the entirely private character of the occasion.

Andrew Turnbull
28 March 1984