

MRS GOODCHILD

file 26
cc Mr Taylor

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: DINNER FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

The Prime Minister has seen my note of yesterday. She agrees that there should be 14 guests at the dinner, at a round table with interpreters sitting behind. She would much prefer the dinner to be in the Pillared Room if possible. She would like us to arrange for the Head of Protocol to meet the guests on arrival. She will greet them in the White Room, have drinks there before dinner and coffee afterwards. She would like the photograph to be in the Blue Room. She is content for a Private Secretaries dinner to be held in No.11 if the Chancellor is willing.

Charles Powell

5 November 1986

PRIME MINISTER

c Mr Taylor
Mrs Goodchild

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: DINNER FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

You are to give a dinner for the Heads of Government attending the European Council here at No. 10 on Friday 5 December. It would be helpful to have a steer on some organisational points.

Yes No

Attendance

There are twelve Heads of State or Government. The President of the Commission is also present. The French want M. Chirac there too. That makes a total of 14.

Agree?

Room

In 1981 you held the dinner in the pillared room. But the 1984 Economic Summit was done in the Dining Room, banked up with flowers to reduce the size. I suggest that with 14 guests plus interpreters the Dining Room is probably better.

Agree to Dining Room?

The Pillared room is very much nicer

Table

In 1981 you had a round table (for 11). I think a round table is best for conversation, and we could probably get one big enough for 14. But the interpreters would have to be behind.

Agree to round table?

Meeting Arrangements

I understand that in 1981 you received Heads of Government in the White Room. If you prefer to do so again - and it will not of course be the first time you meet them - I will arrange for the Head of Protocol to meet them at the Front Door and escort them upstairs.

Agree to receive Heads of Government
in the White Room?

Private Secretaries

We propose to lay on supper for one Private Secretary for each Head
of Government (and the usual five for President Mitterrand!) in
No. 11 with the Chancellor's permission.

Agree to this?

in the dining room at No. 11,

Photograph

We plan a photograph on the way into dinner. I suggest this should
be in the Pillared Room as you move towards the Dining Room.

Agree to photograph in the Pillared Room?

Pillared Room

not

CHARLES POWELL

4 November 1986

VC3ANX

RESTRICTED

MR. POWELL

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: DINNER FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT - FRIDAY, 5 DECEMBER

I have looked through the papers on the last European Council Meeting in London on 26/27 November 1981.

The arrangements for the dinner on 26 November were as follows:

The dinner was held at a circular table in the Pillared Room for 11. Last time the interpreters sat behind.

I do not seem to have a note on whether the Prime Minister welcomed them at the Front Door but will check.

There was a separate dinner for aides and Mitterrand's doctor and ADC in No. 11 Dining Room. The aides had drinks beforehand in No. 11 and remained there the whole evening. After Dinner last time the Heads of Government were joined by their Foreign Ministers. Coffees were served for Heads of Government in the Blue Drawing Room, the dining table was dismantled in the Pillared Room to give extra room for the Foreign Ministers. The Foreign Ministers' aides were served drinks in No. 11. Clive Whitmore and Michael Alexander were present from No. 10.

Sue Goodchild

4 November 1986

RESTRICTED

MRS. GOODCHILD

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: DINNER FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

The Prime Minister will give dinner for Heads of Government attending the European Council at No. 10 on Friday 5 December. We need to consider the arrangements. Do you have notes of what happened last time?

There are likely to be 14 at the dinner (12 Heads of Government plus the French Prime Minister, plus the President of the Commission). With interpreters, this rules out the small dining room and leaves a choice between the main dining room and the pillared room. We shall need to consult the Prime Minister on the choice. Do you remember which it was last time?

Depending on where the dinner is, the guests will assemble either in the White Room or the Pillared Room. There will be a photograph before dinner.

I assume that the Prime Minister will welcome them on arrival in the front hall. We shall need help to escort them upstairs.

There will also need to be a separate dinner in an out-mess for one aide to each Head of Government (though President Mitterrand always brings at least three). We had better bargain on dinner for 16. Where would this be? And where would the aides congregate for a drink beforehand and to wait for Heads of Government afterwards? (I suspect that the Prime Minister will want to use the White Room for coffee for Heads of Government).

Can we please discuss?

C D P

C.D. POWELL

4 November 1986

PRIME MINISTER

Spoken to FCO

CP
20/10

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

There is one point about the organisation of the European Council in London on which I should be grateful for your view.

On the Friday evening, you will give a dinner for Heads of Government here in 10 Downing Street and the Foreign Secretary will give a separate dinner for Foreign Ministers. The question is whether a notetaker should be present. The Foreign Secretary intends to have one. The practice for Heads of Government dinners is not consistent: sometimes there is a notetaker in a corner, sometimes not. It could be useful for preparing a report when the European Council meets again the following morning. On the other hand you may prefer to have the Heads of Government absolutely alone.

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Prefer a notetaker? Or Heads of Government alone?

CDP

(Charles Powell)

29 October 1986

DCA.27

* It would be me.