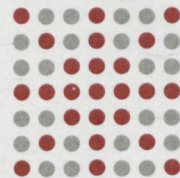


Date 24 October 1984

The British Council



Our ref

Your ref

Tel ext

*BFL*

*Prime Minister  
I have made  
inquiries from the  
Treasury about X1.*

Promoting cultural, educational  
and technical co-operation between  
Britain and other countries

10 Spring Gardens  
London SW1A 2BN  
Telephone 01-930 8466  
Telex 8952201 BRICON G

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

*FERB*

*25.10*

From the Director-General  
Sir John Burgh KCMG CB

*Dear Prime Minister,*

It is with genuine gratitude that I write to thank you for the splendid dinner on Monday. I do this not only on behalf of my wife and myself, but as the executive head of an organisation which you have supported in very difficult times. Without your understanding of the importance of our activities for Britain and your ultimate help it would have been infinitely harder, if not impossible, to keep this ship on a reasonably even keel.

You kindly asked me to write on two points. The first concerns the education of the four Whitty boys. As far as I know, the Treasury referred the question of paying the boarding school fees to Counsel some weeks ago. I have heard no more since.

*X BFL*

*If we must pay them. It is not a matter of law - but of doing the only decent thing.*

The second point relates to the FCO proposal for both a financial management and a policy review of the Council in 1985. This emanates from the review arrangements which have been introduced by the Financial Management Unit of the Cabinet Office/Treasury. Frankly, two more searching reviews of our activities would have a devastating effect on staff morale quite apart from their cost. I am in touch with the FCO about this and I do hope we can solve this question between ourselves without bothering you further.

*thing  
not*

Thank you once more for a most enjoyable and  
encouraging evening. It will be a landmark in the annals  
of the Council.

Yours sincerely

John H. H. H.



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

25 October, 1984.

The Prime Minister was very grateful for your generous letter of 24 October. She is so glad that you enjoyed Monday's dinner: it was certainly a very happy occasion.

We are finding out from the Treasury the position about the Whitty boys, and the Prime Minister has noted that you hope to resolve the issue about the financial management and policy reviews with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

E. E. R. BUTLER

Sir John Burgh, K.C.M.G., C.B.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J.B.' or similar, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL  
10 SPRING GARDENS LONDON SW1A 2BN  
01-930 8466

① FERB

4

② Prime Minister

From The Chairman  
Sir Charles Troughton CBE MC TD

job 24 Oct '84

Caroline  
I think we  
must agree.  
1/2 an hour.  
FERB

~~Mr Butler~~

Does he have  
to come in again?

Dear Prime Minister.

Monday night was an unforgettable occasion  
for all your guests; & for God myself  
something to be remembered, cherished & treasured  
not for an hour. I cannot thank you  
enough for having us; I cannot thank  
you enough for all you said & your kindness  
to me; your support for the Council will  
not be forgotten. Some, indeed all, told  
me, & I felt, the very happy friendly  
warm atmosphere at 2010 & that  
speaks volumes for you & Denis.

I hope to have 20 minutes to say good bye  
& thank you before I go at the end  
of the year. It has been a marvellous  
period in our lives & I am grateful  
for it all. Very best wishes to Denis  
with love from Nick

X

THE BRITISH COUNCIL  
10 SPRING GARDENS LONDON SW1A 2BN  
01-930 8466

Prime Minister

CJP  
5/xii

From The Chairman  
Sir Charles Troughton CBE MC TD

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher FRS MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

3 December 1984

MT

Dear Prime Minister.

It is very good of you to find time to see me in your hideous schedule of work and I am much looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday 11 December at 5.45 pm.

I always take any comment of yours, whether laudatory or critical, very seriously indeed. When you gave us that marvellous dinner party at No 10 you mentioned to me that you were disturbed about the extravagant, lush carpets in our Paris office being an example of conspicuous waste (not your phrase but I took it that that was what you meant). I got interested in the detail of this and thought that I would send you my findings: as I would have done in the past had a shareholder made a criticism to me when I was Chairman of a company in the private sector.

The purchase of the new building and the plans for its fitting out took place between 1972 and 1975 under the impetus of Lord Soames. In a letter dated 21 July 1972 to Sir Alec Douglas Home (as he then was), who was the Secretary of State, Lord Soames wrote that the new building would "... provide a fine focal point for the development of British cultural influence in the metropolis ... we must measure up to the splendid new opportunity this affords".

Now as to the detail. In 1975/76 1179m<sup>2</sup> of British carpet was laid at a cost of £7.59 per square metre (1976 price). In 1984 248m<sup>2</sup> of the original carpet was replaced with the same British carpet at £12.19 per square metre. The original carpet had had 8 years' wear and the replacement cost was shared with the British Institute, who share the building with us.

I checked with a well known retail multiple and they would expect to spend from £12.50 to £16 per square metre depending on the amount of wear expected.

I go into all this detail because I want you to know

- a) that your comments are never ignored;
- b) that reasonable and proper care is taken to see that decent standards, which are required in a capital city, are maintained without extravagance.

Yours ever  
Dick



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

6 December, 1984.

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 3 December giving details of the carpets in the British Council's Paris Office.

Charles Powell

Sir Charles Troughton, CBE, MC, TD.