

CP
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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 May 1985

Yes no

There is a
Koenigswinter chique,
who always go. On the UK
side they are predominantly
SDP/Liberal. It is not nearly
Dear Charles, so implicit a forum
as it was. Agree not to attend

Koenigswinter Conference 1986

(despite Foreign
Secretary's views)?
CDP
1/5

Thank you for your letter of 15 April.

You wrote that the Prime Minister would be reluctant to host the dinner for the 1986 Conference. The Foreign Secretary well appreciates the constraints on her time, and would of course be happy to act as host himself in her place. Nevertheless, he believes that before taking a final decision the Prime Minister may like to consider the advantages of accepting on this occasion.

The Germans attach considerable importance to the role which Koenigswinter plays in Anglo-German relations and take care to see that attendance is normally at the highest level on their side. President von Weizsacker this year attended the opening session, and in past years there have been regular appearances by the Chancellor of the day, for example Helmut Schmidt. It follows that these meetings afford a valuable opportunity to get our views across to the Germans in a way which ensures that the message gets home.

[never
Kohl]

Next year's conference would be an opportunity for a major speech emphasising the Government's views on European collaboration, and our commitment to furthering this. It would be good, in continuation of our previous efforts, to stress at the highest level to one of our two main partners in Europe the importance of our contribution both to the development of the EC and to European defence. (The Prime Minister was unable to take up Sir Geoffrey's suggestion for a speech on the defence theme during 'Exercise Lionheart' last year, and I doubt whether a suitable occasion will be found in the course of this year.)

April 1986 would be a good moment for such a speech, two months before the State Visit by President von Weizsacker, which we expected to take place in June. The Prime Minister could explore some themes for our Presidency in the second half of that year. The speech would be experienced first hand by many of those Germans most concerned with Anglo-German relations, and we could be sure of wide reporting in Germany.

Yours ever,

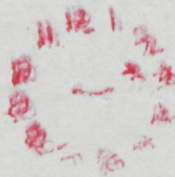
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

GERMANY: Anglo-German Relations. Pt 3

ET MAY 1985



RESTRICTED



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b.c.PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 May 1985

KOENIGSWINTER CONFERENCE 1986

Thank you for your letter of 1 May setting out for the Prime Minister the advantages of agreeing to host the dinner for the 1986 Koenigswinter Conference.

The Prime Minister has considered this again but remains of the view that she does not wish to host the dinner for the 1986 Conference. She would be grateful if the Foreign Secretary would take this on.

(C. D. POWELL)

C.R. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 May 1985

Dear Sir Frank,

Thank you for your letter of 29 March.

I am afraid it will not be possible for me to host the government dinner at the 1986 Königswinter Conference, but the Foreign Secretary would be delighted to do so in my place.

May I take this opportunity to wish you every success with the Conference.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Sir Frank Roberts, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.

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CFO

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 May 1985

Dear Charles,

Koenigswinter Conference 1986

Thank you for your letter of 2 May. As agreed, the Foreign Secretary will host the Government dinner. I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Sir Frank Roberts.

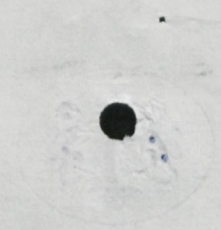
Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
No 10 Downing Street

Germany: Pels: Pt 3



DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: Sir Frank Roberts
25 Kensington Court Gardens
LONDON W8 5QF

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

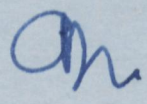
.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 29 March.

CAVEAT.....

I am afraid it will not be possible for me to host the government dinner at the 1986 Koenigswinter Conference, but the Foreign Secretary would be delighted to do so in my place.

May I take this opportunity to wish you every success with the Conference.



Enclosures—flag(s).....

Germany : Lets: Pt 3

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9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
G 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

21 MAY 1985





DA

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 April 1985

Konigswinter Conference, 1986

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Sir Frank Roberts inviting her to host a dinner for the 1986 Königswinter Conference.

BFL

I should be grateful for your advice before submitting this to the Prime Minister. But I know that she will be reluctant to take it on, I think rightly. It would be helpful to know whether the Foreign Secretary would be able to do so if she decides against.

(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Leo

CDP

MR. POWELL

KÖNIGSWINTER CONFERENCE: CAMBRIDGE

APRIL 1986

The attached letter from Sir Frank Roberts (ex Ambassador) asks the Prime Minister to host the Government Dinner of the Königswinter Conference at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, in April 1986.

No comment - please deal!

OP

4 April 1985



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 April 1985

I am afraid your letter to the Prime Minister arrived on the day that she left for ten days in South East Asia.

I shall put your request to Mrs. Thatcher on her return and we shall be writing to you again.

Caroline Ryder (Mrs)

Sir Frank Roberts, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.

R3/4

25 KENSINGTON COURT GARDENS
LONDON W8 5QF

29th March, 1985

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
10 Downing Street
Whitehall
London SW1.

My dear Prime Minister,

In 1980 you were good enough to host the Government dinner at the Anglo-German Königswinter Conference in Cambridge and to bring the then German Chancellor, Hellmut Schmidt, with you from Chequers. This, of course, made a major contribution to the success of that year's conference.

At this year's conference in Germany the Federal President, Richard von Weizsäcker, opened the proceedings and stayed with us for the first afternoon's proceedings. The Chancellor, Hellmut Kohl, had provisionally agreed to host the German Government reception but was in the event kept away by a major CDU Party Conference in Essen.

This year's conference was the first opened by a Federal President and we are anxious to show that we on our side attach a similar importance to these meetings. I hope therefore that you will agree once again to host the Government dinner in 1986. We shall be meeting, as we always do, at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, from Thursday, April 3rd, to Saturday, April 5th. The Government dinner has always taken place on the Friday and I imagine this is normally a more convenient day for this purpose than Thursday. While I realise that you may find it difficult to commit yourself so far ahead, I hope very much that you will be able to honour us again in this way and that April 4th would be a convenient date.

I understand that there is a strong possibility of Richard von Weizsäcker paying a State Visit to this country in 1986. This is another reason why we should like to highlight the 1986 Königswinter Conference, which will be the thirtysixth in a long series.

Yours sincerely

Frank K Roberts

Sir Frank K Roberts

gang, gavo