



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 May 1985

Dear Mr. von Hase,

Thank you for your letter of 2 April. I was interested to learn of the discussion about youth exchanges at Konigswinter.

I firmly believe in the value of such exchanges as a way of developing international understanding through personal contacts. I agree that it is right that we should devote special attention to such questions in this 40th anniversary year. I see the development of contacts between the youth of our two countries as a symbol of the reconciliation which we are commemorating.

One concrete result of our activity this year has been the recent establishment of the Youth Exchange Centre. This unites the manpower and resources of the British Council and the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges, so as to improve the coordination and funding of youth exchange projects.

One example of its potential is a new proposal whereby British and German community service volunteers will work on projects in each other's countries for a period of six months. As you will recall, Sir Geoffrey Howe announced the establishment of a pilot scheme of this kind in his speech on 16 May at the Federal German Ambassador's dinner to mark thirty years of diplomatic relations between Britain and the Federal Republic.

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Another imaginative idea is that of a Konigswinter scholarship, which I understand you have discussed with our Ambassador in Bonn. We are considering with Sir Frank Roberts how best to carry forward this promising idea. We hope that commercial interests on both sides, who have been involved with Konigswinter in the past, will make a contribution.

We are also looking at other plans for increasing the number of teacher and pupil exchanges. Pilot schemes for school-student exchanges and meetings between German/English teachers of English/German are currently being examined by the Department of Education and Science.

As regards overall funding, the British Council already allocate more to youth exchanges with the Federal Republic than to those with any other country, which reflects the importance we attach to this aspect of our bilateral relations. I think it is right that we should now concentrate on developing ideas to make better use of these resources to the benefit of young people in both our countries.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Thelker

Dr. Karl Gunther von Hase

Germany Relation BF?



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 May 1985

Dear Charles,

You wrote on 15 April enclosing a letter dated 2 April from Dr Karl Gunther von Hase to the Prime Minister about youth exchanges.

We have consulted the British Council and the Department of Education and Science, as well as our Ambassador in Bonn, and have now put certain proposals to Sir Frank Roberts, who is the UK Coordinator for the Konigswinter Conferences.

From the outset it was unlikely that we would be able to set anything up in time for the Anniversary of VE Day on 8 May, and we did not in any case want to promote something which might be seen as token or derisory when compared with the importance of the Anniversary itself. We are now, however, in a position which will enable the Prime Minister to reply to Herr von Hase in terms which support the spirit of the proposals. I enclose a possible draft.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM

Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Dr Karl Gunther von Hase

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

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To issue:
dated
17 May
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Enclosures—flag(s).....

German News No 3

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[Von Hase will be present at the dinner]

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 April, 1985.

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the German Co-Chairman of the Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft in which he conveys the recommendation of the last Konigswinter Conference that the Fortieth Anniversary of VE Day should be commemorated by announcing an increase in the amount of funds available for supporting youth exchanges between Britain and Germany.

I should be grateful for a draft reply.

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I am copying this letter to Elizabeth Hodkinson (Department of Education and Science), Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office), and Michael McCulloch (Overseas Development Administration).

(C.D. Powell)

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

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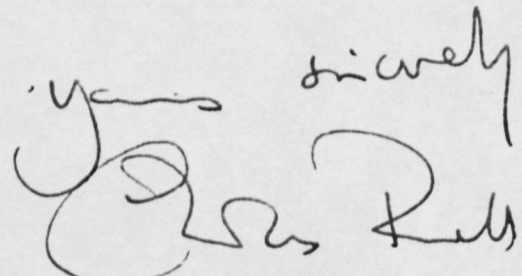
From the Private Secretary

15 April, 1985.

Dear Mr von Hase,

I write on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter to her of 2 April.

I shall place your letter before the Prime Minister at once, and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

(C.D. Powell)

Herr Karl-Günther von Hase

CF

CCP

DEUTSCH-ENGLISCHE GESELLSCHAFT E.V.

EHRENPRÄSIDENTEN: DR. KURT BIRRENBACH · PROF. DR. RALF DAHRENDORF · DR. MARION GRÄFIN DÖNHOF · DR. KATHARINA FOCKE
HANS V. HERWARTH · DR. W. ALEXANDER MENNE · WALTER SCHEEL · HELMUT SCHMIDT
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VORSITZENDER:
KARL-GUNTHER VON HASE, BONN
GESCHÄFTSFÜHRENDER VORSITZENDER:
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2 April 1985

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10 Downing Street,
London S.W.1.

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of all the participants of this year's Königswinter Conference I want to thank you for your encouraging message which was read out in the presence of the Federal German President when he attended the opening.

I am glad to say that some very interesting discussions were had at the Conference which we hope have contributed to a furthering of mutual knowledge and understanding of our common aims.

I feel obliged to inform you of a proposal which was made as a result of the discussion which took place in the study group on "The German Question" and found the support of all the Conference participants. A British member suggested that the most appropriate way to commemorate the 8 May would be to announce an increase in funds contributed to supporting youth exchanges between Britain and Germany.

Having followed all your very understanding and helpful comments on the question of how 8 May should be observed, you will, I am sure, agree that such an effort would receive wide support.

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zum Schreiben an: The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
London S.W.1.

Datum: 2.4.1985

I have also informed Chancellor Kohl accordingly and would welcome it if the two Governments would see fit to respond to this appeal of the Königswinter Conference.

I have taken the liberty of giving copies of this letter to the British Ambassador in Bonn, HE Sir Julian Bullard, and to the newly-appointed Special Representatives for British-German contacts, Sir Norman Statham and Dr. Walter Gehlhoff.

Sincerely yours,

Karl-Günther von Hase
(Karl-Günther von Hase)

GOHRSMÜHLE

GERMANY: Relations: A 3.

