



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 May 1985

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPANISH ARMADA

The Prime Minister has seen the Minister for the Arts' minute of 8 May about the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Spanish Armada.

The Prime Minister thinks this is a very delicate matter vis-à-vis the Spaniards and would like to be absolutely sure that they are agreeable to what is proposed. She sees some risk that their response to Dr. Cossons' approach is simply politeness. She would therefore prefer the matter to be discussed either with the Spanish Ambassador here by the Foreign Office or by our Ambassador in Madrid with the Spanish Government before she writes to Senor Gonzalez. I should be grateful if this could be put in hand.

I stress that the Prime Minister is perfectly willing to take a hand in sponsoring the exhibition but wants to be absolutely sure of Spanish reactions in advance.

I am copying this letter to Colin Budd (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Charles Powell

Paul Thomas, Esq.,
Office of the Minister for the Arts.

PC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 February 1986

CDP
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Dear Charles,

400th Anniversary of the Spanish Armada

In your letter of 14 ^{at 11am} May 1985 to Paul Thomas you conveyed the Prime Minister's interest in the proposed exhibition by the National Maritime Museum to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Spanish Armada.

You will recall that we informally consulted the Spanish Government back in July last year to gauge their reaction to this proposal. The Ambassador in Madrid has now received a letter from the Spanish MFA confirming that they endorse the project, and asking the Museum to discuss their ideas with the Spanish Ambassador here.

The Foreign Secretary has accordingly written to the Chairman of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum to inform them of this positive development, and has agreed to be included on the Museum's Committee of Honour for the exhibition.

I am copying this letter to Paul Thomas (Office of the Minister for the Arts).

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

SPAIN 3/80

Reinas,



Förskan och Kommunikations Office
London SW1A 2AA





10 DOWNING STREET

CF

I think this is yours -
we have a few PPS
which end up by
saying "CF have got this
in hand - they're
waiting for info. from
Madrid".

(C.P. note on 14 May
to OAL)

Angela



10 DOWNING STREET

MR CATFORD

Any news on the attached?

CR

CAROLINE RYDER

18 June 1985

ECL

18 June 1985

I am so sorry that it is taking us a little time to reply to your previous letter on the subject of the Spanish Armada exhibition.

We will be writing to you again as soon as possible.

(Mrs Caroline Ryder)

R.L. Ormond, Esq.

SRW



NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

Mrs Caroline Ryder
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
London SW1

2G5/4/053
14 June 1985

Dear Mrs Ryder

I wonder if you have any further news about the likelihood or otherwise of a letter being sent by the Prime Minister on the subject of the Spanish Armada exhibition. I know that the Foreign Commonwealth Office was being consulted, and realize that this will take time. Any indication of the prospects of the letter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

R L Ormond
Head
Department of Pictures

*National Maritime Museum Greenwich London SE10 9NF Telephone 01-858 4422 01-858 5265
Old Royal Observatory Telephone 01-858 1167*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 May 1985

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Dear Charles,

400th Anniversary of the Spanish Armada

The Foreign Secretary was glad to note that the Prime Minister is in principle prepared to cosponsor this project.

He entirely shares her view that it is essential to have the clearest account of Spanish Government views before any message is sent to Sr Gonzalez. HM Ambassador in Madrid is being instructed to take soundings.

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Yours ever,

Le Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

cc: P Thomas Esq
Office for the Minister of the Arts



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20 MAY 1985

