



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

November 29, 1989

Dear Cilla

I have been reading of the trouble you recently had at the London Palladium recording when the award of "Woman of the Decade" was announced.

I want you to know how much I appreciate what you said on my behalf amid the hubbub. It was very kind and generous of you to do so and I shan't forget your support.

With every good wish.

and warm regards

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mrs P V M Willis



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Dear Mr. Hitchen,

I read this morning your column about the way Cilla Black stood up for me at the London Palladium.

Could I just say how much I appreciate your remarks? Thank you so much for your generous and warm hearted support.

We are, I think, due to meet for a chat here on Wednesday, December 13. I very much look forward to it.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Chalton

Brian Hitchen Esq

Daily Star
28 11 89

STRAIGHT TALKING
FROM THE STAR

Brian
Hitchen



A GREAT BRITISH DEMOCRAT

MEMO to the Prime Minister: Whatever else you do today, please add to your New Year's Honours list the name of Mrs. Priscilla Veronica Maria Willis — for standing up for democracy.

Never heard of her? That's hardly surprising. Like the rest of us, you probably know her as Cilla Black.

I have no idea what Cilla's political persua-

sion happens to be. And I don't give a damn.

On Tuesday night, on stage at the London Palladium, she put her show-business reputation on the line by shouting down a mob of political wreckers.

Liverpool-born Cilla was hosting Goodbye to the Eighties, a glittering show, which will be

screened by London Weekend Television on New Year's Eve.

The spectacular featured showbusiness legends, and the very best of stunning ITN news footage of the most dramatic events of the decade.

A nationwide audience had earlier cast their votes for the people they considered to have made

**Cilla is so
brave to
take on the mob**



UNRUFFLED: Cilla spoke up

the biggest contribution to events during the 1980s. By a two-thirds majority they had voted Margaret Thatcher as the Stateswomen of the Decade.

When the award was announced, the activists who had infiltrated the invited audience, booed and jeered so loudly that the Prime Minister's words of thanks, relayed in a video link from Downing Street, were totally shouted down.

Great

These are the people who always claimed to be big on democracy — just so long as a vote goes their way. And because it didn't they were determined to wreck the show.

They hadn't bargained on our Cilla though. Absolutely unruffled, Cilla abandoned the script, stepped forward to the footlights in her shimmering white evening dress and gave the mob a free character reading.

"Eh! Don't shout her down," yelled Cilla. "She's the woman who put the Great back into Great Britain."

My reaction? I'd have poured boiling pitch on them. It might not have been democratic but it would have been very satisfying.