

nbpin jet



2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

Miss Eleanor Goodison  
Private Secretary to  
The Rt Hon Richard Luce MP  
Minister of the Arts  
Cabinet Office  
Office of the Minister for the Civil Service  
Horse Guards Road  
LONDON  
SW1P 3AL

21 April 1988

Dear Miss Goodison

You were present yesterday when my Secretary of State and Mr Luce met to discuss progress on the Thyssen collection. Mr Stone (OAL) and Mr Jefferson (PSA) were also present.

My Secretary of State <sup>at home</sup> re-iterated the points which he made in his letter of 19 April to Mr Luce following his lunch with Baron Thyssen last Saturday. The Baron had a clear preference for a gallery in Docklands followed by The Grange. A package would be worked up for the Baron in the next few weeks presenting these 2 options, together with the fallback option of Birmingham. It was probably unnecessary to do any additional work on the Birmingham option.

The package would present the location and potential of the 2 main sites but would not propose any detailed designs for the buildings at this stage. However, it was important to acknowledge the Baron's wish that the paintings should be displayed intimately in a succession of small rooms rather than a large space. The package would also, of course, include full details of the Government's proposals for purchasing the paintings and Mr Luce explained that there had been problems in the negotiations about shareholding. My Secretary of State's view was that the Government should not make a fuss about this and should accede to the Baron's wishes.

A number of tasks were identified and allocated. It may be helpful if I list these so we all know what we are doing.

- i. The Baron was concerned that he should be able to visit the collection easily using his private jet. I am investigating whether he would be able to use the London City Airport.
- ii. My Secretary of State agreed to speak to Paul Reichman (Canary Wharf) and Sir John Baring (The Grange). I will let you know as soon as we have fixed up these meetings.



- iii. Bryan Jefferson agreed to obtain more information on the exact location of a possible gallery at Canary Wharf and also to consider other options for sites in the Docklands area.
- iv. Bryan Jefferson also agreed to have a quiet word with James Stirling.
- v. It was agreed that regular weekly meetings should be set up between my Secretary of State and Mr Luce. I understand that the first of these meetings has now been fixed for next Wednesday, 27 April at 6.30pm. The next meeting will be on 3 May at 5.30pm. Mr Hanks-Drielsma has been invited to these meetings.

I am copying this letter to Andy Bearpark at No 10.

*Yours sincerely*  
*M. Cameron*

pp DEBORAH LAMB  
Private Secretary



ARTS + AMENITIES

Thyssen Feb 88





OFFICE OF ARTS AND LIBRARIES  
Horse Guards Road  
London SW1P 3AL  
Telephone 01-270 5929

*From the Minister for the Arts*

C88/2229

Miss D Lamb  
Assistant Private Secretary to the  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON SW1

22 April 1988

*Dear Deborah,*

Thank you for your letter of yesterday's <sup>date</sup> ~~date~~ setting out the main points of the discussion between my Minister and Mr Ridley on Wednesday.

Just *two* points:

- Mr Luce said that the question of whether the Thyssen nominees would have a 49% or 51% shareholding in a new foundation might be a matter for negotiation. It has not been raised with the Baron at this stage and has not yet therefore caused any problems. We understand, however, that the Baron wants a controlling share. Further details are in the note my Minister has sent to the Prime Minister today;
- we think we agreed 4 May at 5.30 pm for the second regular meeting between our Ministers!

I am copying this letter to Andy Bearpark at No.10.

*Yours ever,  
Bleanor*

MISS E M GOODISON  
Private Secretary

MINISTER OF STATE  
PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

ART AND AMENTICS: Thypaen Collection  
Feb 85

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540





Prime Minister<sup>2</sup>.

CCB/ls

2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

The Rt Hon Richard Luce MP  
Minister of the Arts  
Cabinet Office  
Office of the Minister for the Civil Service  
Horse Guards Road  
LONDON  
SW1P 3AL

My ref:  
Your ref:

19 April 1988

Dear Richard

Judy and I lunched with Baron Thyssen on Saturday, Hankes-Drielsma was also there.

He remains very interested in an English offer for a place for his collection. He showed no sign of feeling committed to Madrid; indeed he was rather critical both of the Spanish plan and of the Villahermosa Palace. He never mentioned the agreement.

I showed him photographs of Wentworth Woodhouse, The Grange and Lancaster House; also plans of Birmingham and Docklands for new building sites. He quite quickly ranked them as follows:-

- i. LDDC - "we must look to the future, very exciting etc";
- ii. The Grange - "A beautiful house";
- iii. Birmingham;
- iv. Wentworth Woodhouse - "too far away";
- vi. Lancaster House - "too small, too little room".

I think this enables us to concentrate on LDDC and The Grange. He would like to have a trip round Docklands to see the area and hear of the plans for its development. He thought it might be hard to get to by car, but was interested in Stolport. We will check where one can fly to and from, and also whether the facilities are adequate for his private plane.

His attitude was that he will go to the country which gives him what he wants. There can be no question of bargaining as hinted in the Palumbo Report, he will simply shy away. How it is presented to him is important (he criticised the Swiss over this and he does not like the Spanish proposals which give more emphasis to cafés and car parks than to his pictures). He wants the pictures to be shown intimately. The best of them are small and he doesn't like them to be shown like postage stamps in rows. He believes they should be shown in small rooms, even if it is not possible to have so many on show.

If we can come forward with a suggestion to please him I think we have a very real chance.

It might be a good idea if you and I (and perhaps Hanks-Drielsma) were to meet to discuss how we go from here. We haven't all that much time.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister.

*Your an  
Nicholas*

NICHOLAS RIDLEY