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ccco

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

20<sup>th</sup> May 1988.

Dear Baron Thyssen,

It is with very great pleasure that I submit to you the proposals of the British Government to provide for the long-term future of the Thyssen - Bornemisza Collection. And I am delighted to say that my Cabinet colleagues endorsed them very warmly indeed at our meeting yesterday.

Since our talk and having had the opportunity to see the truly beautiful pictures from the Collection in the Royal

Academy. I have felt a growing  
sense of excitement and gratitude  
that you and your Trustees should  
be prepared to consider entrusting the  
care of this supreme and unique  
Collection to Britain.

Should you and your Trustees  
decide to proceed with our proposal, we  
shall do our utmost to ensure that the  
location and future for the Collection is  
worthy both of its merit and of your  
confidence in us.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher



Ref. A088/1566

MR GRAY

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The Thyssen Collection

I promised to have a go at a draft  
of a personal letter from the Prime Minister  
to Baron Thyssen. This is attached.

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R.R.B.

ROBIN BUTLER

19 May 1988

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE BARON HANS  
HEINRICH THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA DE KASZON

You will be receiving with this letter the proposal of the British Government to provide for the long-term future of the Thyssen-Borenmisza Collection.

I am delighted and thrilled that my colleagues in the Cabinet should have endorsed so warmly the suggestion that we should submit this proposal to you. Since meeting you, and since having the opportunity to see for myself the breathtaking pictures from the Collection in the exhibition at the Royal Academy, I have felt a growing sense of excitement and gratitude that you and your Trustees should be prepared to consider that care of this supreme Collection should be entrusted to Britain.

I hope that I do not need to assure you that if you and your Trustees decide to proceed with our proposal, we shall do our utmost to ensure that the location and future for the Collection is worthy both of its merit and of your confidence in us.