

PRIME MINISTER

BRIAN CROZIER: PRIZE FOR POLITICAL  
COURAGE PRESENTED BY POLITIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE

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Mr. Thatcher has passed to us the attached papers in which Brian Crozier suggests that you should go to Paris at a date of your own choosing to receive the above prize.

Would you like me to find out from the Foreign Office what the organisation is and if it is a good idea for you to do this?

*Yes please  
not  
A.S.C.*

10 November 1983

From Brian Crozier

Denis Thatcher, Esq.,  
10 Downing Street,  
London SW1

Kulm House,  
Dollis Avenue,  
Finchley,  
London N3 1DA  
Tel. 01-346 8124

*Dear Denis,*

5 Nov 83

In Paris yesterday I lunched with Patrick Wajsman of POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE, and I think I can now dispel the previous confusion. As I thought, he did not write directly to 10 Downing Street, and the material you saw, which related to last year's event, must have been the stuff I sent to Margaret at Wajsman's suggestion.

The position is as follows:

- By a large majority, the distinguished Jury picked Margaret Thatcher for the PRIX POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE (for "political courage").

- The Prize is jointly sponsored by POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE and the biggest French publishing house, HACHETTE.

- If the Prime Minister accepts, the date is up to her: any date of her choice in March, April or May 1984.

- The sponsors need a lengthy notice as well as the recipient. About 800 people will be invited. They will include (as they did on the first occasion) the Heads of some 300 of the largest companies, at least 50 politicians of different parties, distinguished people in various walks of life, all the newspapers, agencies and television-radio organisations in Paris, etc.

- Although Wajsman himself, and his review, are "on our side", the range of opinions represented on POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE is very wide. If the Prime Minister accepts, the award will not be for any particular act of policy but to herself as a political personality.

- No official invitation will be issued until there is an informal acceptance, through me.

- The ceremony will begin at about 5 p.m. and last two hours. She would be required to make a short speech of acceptance: 10/20 minutes, as she may wish. The ceremony will be followed by a banquet at which her attendance is optional, although it is naturally hoped that she will attend.

- The invitation, of course, includes yourself.

I hope this note clears up all outstanding points. I repeat, this invitation from French sponsors to a British Prime Minister, and to Margaret Thatcher in particular, is in my view something which one can only strongly urge Margaret to accept.

Best regards,  
Yours ever,  
Pruitt

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I do hope your sciatica & allied ailments are on the mend.

Mr Robin Butler

2.11.83

Mr Thatcher

Brian Crozier would like a word with you please if possible today (346 8124). He has to go to Paris tomorrow and he wants to clear a misunderstanding relating to the award of a prize to the P.M. about which he has already contacted you.

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Joy

I do NOT think the P.M.  
is going to believe  
this but all I can  
do is pass it on

S S /  
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From Brian Crozier

Denis Thatcher, Esq

Kulm House,  
Dollis Avenue,  
Finchley,  
London N3 1DA  
Tel. 01-346 8124

2 November 83

*Dear Denis,*

Many thanks for your help, and I'm sorry to have to bother you again (which I am doing in writing in case I can't reach you by telephone). There is a misunderstanding about POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE.

I spoke to the Editor, Patrick Wajzman, yesterday. He made it clear, as he had not done previously, that nobody expected the Prime Minister to come to Paris in November to receive the prize for "political courage". All that is needed is her acceptance. Thereafter, she can pick her own date, if necessary, months ahead. He pointed out that they would need lengthy notice anyway, to ensure that a sufficiently distinguished panel, plus visitors, could be present on the occasion.

I do hope, in these new circumstances, that Margaret will accept the Prize, which would bring a lot of excellent publicity, especially coming from a French institution to a British Prime Minister, and to Margaret Thatcher in particular.

I am lunching with Wajzman in Paris on Friday. I shall tell him of this further démarche, and I hope that before long I shall hear that the answer is Yes, with one or two provisional dates, say in the first half of next year. A formal invitation could then be issued.

*Yours ever  
Brian*

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