



*File No
cc to*

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

9 November 1984

SERIAL No. T188/84

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Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for the invitation in your letter of 19 October to attend the Inauguration Ceremonies, in June 1985, of Athens as European City of Culture. I understand that there may be an opportunity for Culture Ministers to discuss this further at their forthcoming meeting in Brussels on 22 November and I look forward to hearing after that discussion how plans are progressing for the Festival in Athens.

I look forward to seeing you at the European Council Meeting in Dublin.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Andreas Papandreou.

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Embassy of Greece

1a, Holland Park,

London, W.11

*MBM
am.*

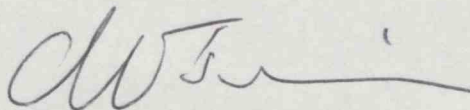
No.F.3409.1

8 November 1984

Dear Private Secretary,

I have been requested by Mr. Andreas Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece, to enclose a letter to the Prime Minister, the contents of which were conveyed by the Ambassador's letter of 22 October, 1984, under reference F.2011.

Yours sincerely,



Christos Tsalikis
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

The Principal Private Secretary to
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW 1



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 November 1984

*Dear Charles,*European City of Culture: Athens 1985

Thank you for your letter of 22 October with which you enclosed a letter from Mr Papandreou inviting the Prime Minister to attend the inauguration ceremonies, in June 1985, of Athens' time as the European City of Culture.

The Greeks are getting out well ahead of their Community partners over this scheme, which has its origins in a Greek suggestion, made at the first informal meeting of Community Ministers of Culture in Athens last November, that each year a European city should be designated as European City of Culture, starting with Athens in 1984 (now 1985). Contrary to what the Greeks like to suggest, this idea has never been formally endorsed by EC Culture Ministers nor has it been substantively discussed by them.

At the October Foreign Affairs Council the Greek Minister Pangalos made a statement under other business inviting Foreign Ministers to attend the inauguration ceremonies. We consider that the precedent which would be set by attendance by the Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary on this first occasion would make it difficult to decline subsequent requests from other partners; and there may in addition be a further risk of a de facto parallel "cultural presidency" developing out of such high level gatherings, which quite apart from increased calls on Ministerial time and travel could open the way to considerable confusion or duplication within the Community.

We accordingly recommend that the Prime Minister should send a low key non-committal reply. I enclose a draft. We intend to ask for discussion of this matter at the 22 November meeting of EC Culture Ministers, when Lord Gowrie might sound out his colleagues' attitudes to the Greek invitation.

*Yours ever,**Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Greece May 80
Korinth

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AA



DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Mr Andreas Papandreou

Secret

Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for the invitation in your letter of 19 October to attend the Inauguration Ceremonies, in June 1985, of Athens as European City of Culture. I understand that there may be an opportunity for Culture Ministers to discuss this further at their forthcoming meeting in Brussels on 22 November and I look forward to hearing after that discussion how plans are progressing for the Festival in Athens. ~~I regret, however, that it is too early for me to say whether I shall be able to attend the ceremonies in June.~~

I look forward to seeing you at the European Council meeting in Dublin. With best wishes.

POSTAL

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Greece
May 30

Palatins