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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 November 1984

Dear Charles,

Visit of the Portuguese Prime Minister: 20-23 November

As part of Dr Soares' programme, we have arranged for him to have short meetings on the afternoon of 22 November with the leaders of the Liberal and Social Democratic parties, with the Rt Hon James Callaghan (an old friend) and with the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party.

In the normal course of events, Dr Soares would have met the Leader of the Opposition that afternoon, but Mr Kinnock leaves for Moscow on 21 November. Mr Kinnock's office have now suggested that he instead call on Dr Soares on the afternoon of 20 November.

This is manageable in terms of Dr Soares' programme, but would involve Mr Kinnock seeing Dr Soares before the Prime Minister. If you see that as problematic, a possible way out would be for the Prime Minister to see Dr Soares briefly on 20 November, say after Question Time. We know that this would greatly please the Portuguese since, while they have readily accepted the arranged programme, they have commented that it is a pity that he will not meet the Prime Minister, whose guest he is, until the day after his arrival.

We are however well aware that the Prime Minister has already amended her personal arrangements to take account of Portuguese wishes and may not want to accept further pressure on the diary. In that case I should be grateful to know if you see objection to the meeting of Mr Kinnock and Dr Soares taking place as suggested.

Yours ever,
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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cc: PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 November, 1984

VISIT OF THE PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER:

20-23 NOVEMBER

Thank you for your letter of 13 November asking whether the Prime Minister could see Dr. Soares on 20 November after Question Time.

The Prime Minister will have to make a statement on the Anglo-Irish consultations on 20 November and will therefore be unable to see Dr. Soares then. We shall have to stick to the arrangements already made. In the circumstances, I am sure that the Prime Minister would understand Dr. Soares' seeing Mr. Kinnock before his call on her.

(C.D. Powell)

C. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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