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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 April 1986

Prime Minister
Would you please signify
your formal agreement to
an invitation to von Weizsaecker
to address both Houses of Parliament?

Dear Charles,

CDP 204

Spencer

State Visit by President von Weizsaecker:
Address to Parliament

Your letter of 3 February confirmed the Prime Minister's agreement that it would be appropriate for President von Weizsaecker to address a Joint Session of both Houses of Parliament during his State Visit. We have now completed the necessary consultations with those concerned in Parliament: the Lord President, Lord Chancellor, Lord Privy Seal, Speaker, Chief Whip, and leaders of the Labour Party and both halves of the Alliance have all accepted the idea. It is agreed that the address should take place in the Royal Gallery.

The Foreign Secretary accordingly recommends that the Prime Minister should now formally agree to the address being included in the State Visit programme. Following the pattern set in the Spanish case, it would be best if this took place at 1200 on Wednesday, 2 July, before the Prime Minister's lunch.

With the Prime Minister's formal agreement, the Lord Chamberlain will convey the invitation through the German Ambassador. The Foreign Secretary will also write to the Lord Great Chamberlain requesting The Queen's formal permission to use the Royal Gallery.

President von Weizsaecker has stressed the importance he attaches to holding substantive discussions during the visit, and would like a good three-quarters of an hour of private discussion with the Prime Minister (he should be meeting Mr Kinnock later that day, and possibly the leaders of the Alliance on Friday 4 July once the formal State Visit itself has ended). I understand the Prime Minister's diary would allow this to take place from 1430-1515. We expect that the President's preference would be for a tête-à-tête with notetakers and perhaps Ambassadors. Would the Prime Minister be content if von Weizsaecker did wish to include one or two other advisers?

/I am

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I am sending a copy of this letter to Joan McNaughton (Lord President's office), Richard Stoate (Lord Chancellor's office), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal), Bill Beaumont (Speaker's office) and Murdo MacLean (Chief Whip's office) in formal confirmation of the outcome of my consultations on the address to Members of both Houses of Parliament. I doubt if the Prime Minister need write personally to the Lord Chancellor or Speaker on this occasion.

*Yours ever,
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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GERMANY - Visit of Pres

von Weizsäcker - 2186





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 March 1986

FRG STATE VISIT: GUILDHALL BANQUET

Thank you for your letter of 27 March asking whether the Prime Minister would wish to attend the Guildhall Banquet for President von Weizsaecker on 2 July.

I am confident that the Prime Minister will not want to attend.

(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ECU



ccpk

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 March 1986

Dear Charles,

FRG State Visit: Guildhall Banquet

I am writing to ask whether the Prime Minister wishes to attend the Guildhall Banquet given by the Lord Mayor of London for President von Weizsaecker and Freifrau von Weizsaecker of the Federal Republic of Germany on Wednesday 2 July.

The Foreign Secretary proposes to be represented at the dinner by Baroness Young. Lord Young and Mr Jopling will also be invited.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 February 1986

STATE VISIT BY PRESIDENT VON WEIZSACKER

Thank you for your letter of 3 February conveying the Foreign Secretary's recommendation that President von Weizsacker be invited to address a Joint Session of both Houses of Parliament during his State Visit.

The Prime Minister agrees that this would be appropriate. She assumes that the address would be made in the Royal Gallery.

I should be grateful if you would set in train the necessary consultations with those concerned in Parliament and in the Palace.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 February 1986

*Prime Minister
Agree that President
von Weizsacker be
invited to address a
Joint Session? (The King of Spain
Dear Charles, will have done so in April).*

State Visit by President von Weizsacker:

1-4 July 1986

The Foreign Secretary wishes to recommend strongly that President von Weizsacker be invited to address a Joint Session of both Houses of Parliament during his State Visit.

The exceptional distinction of such an address has been accorded in recent years to President Saragat, Willi Brandt (then Federal German Chancellor), President Reagan and President Mitterrand. King Juan Carlos, who like von Weizsacker is a non-executive Head of State, will, as you know, be similarly honoured this April.

The importance of the visit and its value for our relationship with one of our closest allies and Community partners need no emphasis. An address to Parliament would help make it the historic occasion both countries wish and would bring it to the public eye in a way few other events could. It is appropriate that von Weizsacker should be accorded the same privilege as President Mitterrand and King Juan Carlos and it would be seen unfavourably in Germany if he were not.

As one of the most distinguished German Parliamentarians von Weizsacker would carry the occasion well. He has impeccable English and is an accomplished speaker. It would be a particularly appropriate recognition of his long-standing association with and affection for Britain since the time of his studies at Oxford. I enclose a personality note.

If the Prime Minister is content, we shall set in train consultations with those concerned in the Palace and in Parliament.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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