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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 June 1988

Fine letter  
EOD 22/6

Dear Charles,

Visit of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany,  
23 June

President von Weizsäcker will call on the Prime Minister at 1700 on Thursday 23 June. He will be unaccompanied. He is visiting Britain to receive a degree by diploma (similar to an honorary degree) at Oxford on 22 June. On 23 June he will lunch with HM The Queen, and will later receive the Foreign Secretary.

President von Weizsäcker (on whom I enclose a personality note) is almost universally respected in the Federal Republic, and his re-election in 1989 is already assured. He has long had close connections with this country, including through the annual Königswinter conferences and his rôle as Governing Mayor of Berlin. He is likely to want to discuss Anglo-German relations, European integration, security cooperation, and US/Soviet policies on arms control.

We recommend that the Prime Minister take this opportunity to welcome the excellent work of the German police during the European football championships and their close cooperation with the British agencies involved, and to express her contempt for the appalling behaviour of some English fans.

Anglo-German Relations

President von Weizsäcker may wish to assess how we in Britain currently view our relations with the Germans, after differences earlier this year on the CAP and SNF. We recommend that the Prime Minister tell him that:-

- she is conscious of the need to get across to public opinion in Britain and Germany the fundamental importance of our relationship;
- she realises the need to keep in particularly close contact in a period when there will be a change of administration in the US, and continuing uncertainties in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe;

/- she will

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- she will be seeing Chancellor Kohl three times in three weeks (Toronto, Hanover, Chequers), and other Ministerial contacts are frequent and extensive;
- non-governmental contacts, such as the Königswinter Conference (with which Weizäcker has long been personally involved), also play an important part.

### EC issues

The Prime Minister could say that the Brussels Agreement in February marked a turning point in the Community's handling of budget/agricultural issues. We cannot now draw a line and say that the problem has been solved: further developments, especially in biotechnology, will increase yields. But we have established the principle of a return to a market-oriented CAP and a mechanism to achieve it. We must aim to make that mechanism work on a continuing basis.

We agree with the German Government that Hanover should focus on the Single Market and should set priorities for the next eighteen months. Our priorities are:

- financial services such as banking, securities and life insurance;
- mutual recognition of testing and certification procedures and further agreement covering product standards;
- further opening up of public purchasing in member states and measures to ensure compliance;
- further liberalisation of transport by road, sea and air;
- opening up the market in telecommunications.

If President von Weizsäcker mentions monetary cooperation, the Prime Minister could stress the importance of the ECOFIN decision on 13 June on the full liberalisation of capital movements. That must be followed by complete abolition of exchange controls. We want also to:

- remove obstacles which deter Member States from holding other Community currencies in their reserves;
- support moves to encourage Member States to maintain greater holdings of private ecus in their official reserve currencies;

/- encourage

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- encourage greater use of the ecu as an intervention currency;
- encourage greater use of the private ecu by business.

Wider issues, such as a European Central Bank, are for a much longer perspective, as Governor Pöhl has pointed out. The issues which need following up are practical questions for practitioners such as Central Bank Governors and Finance Ministers.

If the President talks of wider or more radical institutional EC reforms, the Prime Minister could say that far-reaching changes were agreed in the Single European Act which has been in force for less than a year. The major EC institutions, particularly the Parliament, have still to adapt to their new role. Rather than look for new types of reform, we should now be consolidating the changes in the SEA and developing the areas of Community activity, particularly the Single Market, provided for in it. The EC is not static: the Single Market will change attitudes and opportunities. Its effect on peoples' lives and livelihoods will be much more significant than institutional changes.

The Prime Minister could also say that these developments must not be a reason for the Community to turn inward. The Single Market is a tremendous opportunity for European industry to regain international competitiveness; but only if protectionist pressures are resisted, and the open multilateral trading system extended. The Community must therefore play a full and constructive part in the Uruguay Round. Agriculture will be the key issue. We must obtain credit for the Brussels CAP reforms which were domestically difficult for us all, but we must do more to open agriculture to market forces, and to sustain the liberal international order from which we both benefit.

The Prime Minister may wish to refer to the Community's deepening relationship with the EFTA countries, and the growing links with East European countries. These are important developments economically and politically.

#### Security Cooperation and Arms Control

We recommend that the Prime Minister draw on the following:-

- We and the FRG make the two biggest contributions to NATO among the European Allies. Good cooperation between us, both military and political, is a prerequisite for a healthy Alliance, and needs to be drawn to public attention in the current burden-sharing climate.

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/- Both





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- Both of us have agreed to look for possible means of enhancing our cooperation within NATO. We hope to have some ideas to share with the Germans shortly which will be of genuine operational value. We attach importance also to working together in the field of defence equipment, where we are partners in some of the biggest collaborative ventures currently under way (eg EFA, Tornado, the TRIGAT anti-tank gun).
- On nuclear arms control we support the US approach to START, namely that it is more important to get it right than to rush it. Following agreement at the NATO Summit to keep nuclear weapons up to date, we support the agreement at the April NPG to a step-by-step approach to implementing necessary nuclear modernisation measures.
- We must soon focus on conventional arms control. The Alliance needs to put together sound proposals. French antipathy to bloc to bloc equal ceilings needs to be overcome.
- A Chemical Weapons Convention remains a UK priority, but we do not expect early or easy resolution of the remaining issues. CW use and proliferation are matters of great concern; we have made proposals in the UN.

### 21st Century Trust

In her recent letters to Lord Home, the Prime Minister undertook to mention the Trust to President von Weizsäcker. We recommend that she speak on the following lines:-

- Lord Home tells me that he and other supporters of the 21st Century Trust have approached you about setting up a similar body in Germany;
- The Trust has much distinguished support in UK and US; its aim is to foster Western democratic values by promoting exchanges and contacts between young people;
- interested to hear your reactions.

I am copying this letter to Brian Hawtin (MOD) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever*

*L Parker*

(L Parker)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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VON WEIZSÄCKER, DR RICHARD, HON GCB

Federal President.

Born 1920 in Stuttgart, the son of a career diplomat, Ernest von Weizsäcker, (who though not a Nazi was State Secretary at the Wilhelmstrasse 1938-43 and was sentenced by a US tribunal in 1949 for complicity in war crimes). His brother Carl Friedrich is an eminent physicist and philosopher. His grandfather was a close adviser to the Kaiser and once considered a possible successor to Bismarck.

After a period at Oxford in the family of a Balliol don, he was called up in 1938 and served with the infantry on the eastern front. Came within sight of Moscow in 1941. In 1945 he was among the troops cut off in East Prussia and evacuated to Denmark. When the surrender came he demobbed himself and went home.

Studied law at Grenoble and Göttingen, and helped to defend his father. Entered industry. Became a member of the board of Boehringer and Co at Ingelheim. President of the German Evangelical Church Conference 1964-70 and again 1979-81. Member of the Bundestag from 1969-81, and a Vice Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Party, 1972-79. Nominated to oppose Scheel in the Presidential election of 1974 and did far better than expected against an unbeatable candidate. Author of the party's programme of basic principles, agreed at the 1978 party conference. A Vice President of the Bundestag 1979-81. In the Bundestag he managed to stand above party political infighting. He came to epitomise the liberal socially conscious element in the CDU and clearly saw himself as a conservative with a duty to conciliate and integrate diverging elements of society.

Imported by the Berlin CDU, somewhat at the last moment, to lead the party into the 1979 Berlin elections, he failed to defeat the SPD/FDP coalition, but achieved a record vote for the CDU. When Stobbe fell in January 1981, Weizsäcker forced the other parties to agree to a dissolution. In the subsequent elections the CDU just failed to obtain an absolute majority. Weizsäcker owed his election as Governing Mayor in June 1981 to support from break away members of the FDP Parliamentary Party. Elected Deputy Chairman of the Federal CDU in May 1983: he resigned the post on becoming Federal President.

In Berlin he proved an outstanding success. He took over at a time of considerable disillusionment with the City's political establishment. He came to grips with the problems of the City, showing a depth of vision, wisdom and good sense. His successes were such that only he seemed able to guarantee a further CDU victory in the 1985 Berlin elections. So it was only after some delay and with reluctance that the Chancellor nominated him for the Federal Presidency. But he never had a real alternative. Opinion polls showed von Weizsäcker to be the clear popular favourite. Germans of all parties see him as someone who can integrate and conciliate, who stands above narrow party political interest. He was elected to the Federal Presidency in June 1984 when Carstens's period of office came to an end.

Despite a touch of vanity, von Weizsäcker exudes wisdom and good sense, and is an excellent speaker. An intellectual and philosopher with a conversational style to match, he is liberal in his views on both domestic policy and Ostpolitik, and plays an influential and beneficial national role on the side of moderation in his party. He openly admitted to a wish to make the Presidency a more political office. Many of his speeches since indicate that he intends to stick to this resolution, despite some criticism from the right wing of his liberal, insufficiently 'patriotic' views. His



address to the Bundestag on 8 May 1985, the 40th anniversary of the end of the war, was a classic  
• sample and a masterpiece of its kind, containing a powerful plea for a greater awareness among  
• Germans of their moral responsibility for events between 1933 and 1945. An old friend of Britain,  
who has given much time to the Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft and the Königswinter conference.  
Paid a highly successful State Visit to the UK in July 1986 which included an address to the two  
Houses of Parliament.

Married with four children. He speaks excellent, and his wife adequate, English. Although  
born a Freiherr (Baron) he prefers not to use his title.



Mrs Teresa Quismaw  
10 Downing Street



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*With the compliments of*

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

WG Spahr.  
Sandra

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
SW1A 2AH

28 April 1988



DER BOTSCHAFTER  
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

Baron Rüdiger von Wechmar

London, 20 April 1988

ASTAN DAVID,

Forgive me for not having replied earlier to your letter of  
25 March.

I am pleased to be now able to confirm you that the Federal  
President has accepted the invitations for the 23 June of H.M.  
the Queen to a private luncheon at Buckingham Palace and the  
Prime Minister's to a call at 5.00 p.m. in 10 Downing Street.  
We have also transmitted the offer of Sir Geoffrey Howe to  
come to the Residence at 6.15 p.m. to meet Freiherr von  
Weizsäcker and at the moment we are waiting for the reply from  
the Bundespräsidialamt.

I think Robert Barnett is in close contact with Victoria  
Zimmermann von Siefert who is the person at the Embassy to  
deal with as far as protocol and organisation matters are  
concerned.

Yours sincerely

Pray

Mr David Dain  
Western European Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AL

cc: Mrs Gaisman  
(No 10)

Mr. King 22/4.  
Mr Barnett

D 22/ii

pl. copy to Protocol  
We should also confirm to  
No 10.  
Miss Phillips  
No spoke RB  
GFH 27/4.  
26/4.



NC  
c Tzi/PAS  
PC

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

14 April 1988

Thank you for your letter of 13 April confirming that President von Weizsacker can meet the Prime Minister at 5.00 pm on 23 June. I agree that we should discuss details nearer the time. But I know the Prime Minister would welcome a chance to talk to the Federal President in the smallest possible circle.

(CHARLES POWELL)

His Excellency Baron Rudiger von Wechmar,  
GCVO.

DAS



R14/4



DER BOTSCHAFTER  
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

Baron Rüdiger von Wechmar

London, 13 April 1988

*JOHN CHAMBERS,*

I am writing to you concerning the Prime Minister's invitation to meet the Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker at 5 p.m. in 10 Downing Street.

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Federal President has much pleasure in accepting. I presume that all further details can be discussed nearer to the date.

With kindest regards

*Yours ever*

*Roy*

Mr Charles David Powell  
Private Secretary  
to the Prime Minister  
(Overseas Affairs)  
10 Downing Street

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bc: TG  
PC

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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

23 March 1988

VISIT TO BRITAIN OF  
PRESIDENT VON WEIZSAECKER

Thank you for your letter of 23 March about President von Weizsaecker's visit to Britain and request for a meeting with the Prime Minister on 23 June. It is far from being an ideal day since the Prime Minister will only just have returned from the Economic Summit and her visit to Ottawa and will have to make a statement in the House. But if you advise that a meeting is essential, the Prime Minister could manage 1700 on 23 June for up to 45 minutes.

BF 11

Charles Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10  
Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 March 1988

Not at all a  
constraint line. You  
will just be back from  
the Economic Summit, &  
have made a statement  
to the House. But it  
will be difficult to say no.

✓ PC  
①

Visit to Britain by President von Weizsaecker

As you may know, President von Weizsaecker will be receiving a degree from Oxford University by decree on 22 June. He will attend the normal reception and dinner and stay overnight in Oxford before coming down to London on 23 June for a short programme, including a private lunch with HM The Queen.

Detailed arrangements for the remainder of the programme are being made by the FRG Embassy here. Would the Prime Minister be willing to see President von Weizsaecker for a short call during the afternoon, after Question Time in the House? The President has expressed willingness to cancel other appointments in Bonn to make time for such a call, if it were possible for the Prime Minister.

Agree to short meeting?  
CDP  
Yes  
ms

Janis  
LBA

PP (L Parker)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

FRG



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