

13112
①
CCPC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 December 1988

Dear Charles,

Y
is mt

This Minister
Agree to the appointment
of Lord ~~Rees~~ - Rogg?

EDP
13/xii

CSCE: Information Forum, 18 April-12 May 1989

I promised in my letter of 8 September that we would be in touch about a Leader for the UK Delegation to the London Information Forum.

Although the Vienna CSCE meeting has not yet concluded, it will be important to select the main members soon if we are to secure a suitably senior team. We have therefore considered a wide range of possible candidates against the background of the UK objectives set out in my earlier letter. Clearly, at a time when we are actively encouraging freedom of information and public debate in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, we need to select a Delegation which sets a good example in this regard. The Delegates should not be individuals likely to abuse their position to attack the Government. But equally importantly, it would be counter-productive if we were to field a team consisting only of Government spokesmen.

The Leader of such a Delegation should preferably be well-known and respected internationally, with the personal weight to make a forceful contribution to proceedings. He or she need not be present throughout the entire Forum, but, as the host country representative, would need to put in rather more than a once-a-week appearance. Bearing all the above criteria in mind the Foreign Secretary doubts whether it would be appropriate to select a serving Minister for the job. Rather, it would seem best to appoint a former (rather than immediately ex-) Minister; or indeed, an ex-Opposition figure of stature; or a complete "outsider".

The Foreign Secretary has weighed the various options, and believes that Lord Rees-Mogg would be a good choice as Leader of the Delegation - if he would be prepared to do it and his diary allowed. If the Prime Minister is content, the Foreign Secretary would be happy to approach him. Failing

/Lord



Lord Rees-Mogg, fall-back candidates could include Lord St John of Fawsley (who was very effective as Leader of the UK Delegation to the Budapest Cultural Forum) and Anthony Smith (ex-Director of the British Film Institute).

We envisage that the Leader of the Delegation would be supported by a senior FCO official, probably recently retired. Once Leader and Deputy have been selected, we would propose to involve them in selecting other, non-official, members of the Delegation.

Completed

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L Parker', with a small checkmark below it.

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street



file
DAS
bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 December 1988

Dear Lynn.

CSCE: INFORMATION FORUM

Thank you for your letter of 13 December on the question of a Leader for the United Kingdom Delegation to the London Information Forum. The Prime Minister agrees that Lord Rees-Mogg would be a good choice and would like him to be approached. She has not reached a view on possible fall-back candidates.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

EW