

PRIME MINISTER

Visit by M. Thorn

You kindly agreed earlier to have talks with M. Thorn and give him lunch on Friday 18 March. Now that the Arab League Delegation is said to be coming that day, we need to make an alternative arrangement.

The purpose of seeing M. Thorn is to persuade him, before the European Council on 21 March, that that Council must set in train a procedure for solving the UK budget problem by June. Thus you would need to see him in the week ending 18 March. It is a very busy week and you cannot give him a meal. The only possibility is to restrict our usual briefing meeting for the European Council to one hour and see M. Thorn between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m. on Thursday 17 March. Mr. Pym would give M. Thorn either lunch or dinner.

Agree to receive M. Thorn at 5.00 p.m. on 17 March?

We shall have to calculate how much we can give him. We cannot give him so much as we did last time for the same amount

A.S.C.

*Barrack (L1).
Dining Room -
-
-
admiralty -
cold buffet*

20.15 p.m. 20.30.

23 February 1983

PRIME MINISTER

POSSIBLE VISIT BY PRESIDENT OF EC COMMISSION

The European Council is on 21/22 March.

There was some discussion at today's meeting on the Budget of M. Thorn coming here in the week beginning 14 March.

Would you wish to give him:

- ✓ (a) Lunch on Monday, 14 March, preceded by talks lasting for 45 minutes;
or,
- (b) an hour of your time in the course of the day (then some one else like the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would have to give him a lunch)?

A.P.C.

15 February 1983

Euro Pol
cc Mrs. Goodchild

Mr. Coles

MR. TAYLOR

Visit of M. Thorn : President of the European Commission

We are in great difficulties with the above. The Prime Minister is insisting on entertaining him and he wishes to come during Budget week, which apart from many other things is not the best week of the year. But in addition M. Thorn is unable to come on the days the Prime Minister can manage. The only possibility appears to be dinner on Thursday 17 March. The Prime Minister is well aware that it is extremely difficult to do dinners on the same evenings as receptions. But she has asked whether you could make special arrangements to lay on a cold supper in the Small Dining Room. Mrs. Thatcher will entertain the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association until 8.00: have tete-a-tete talks in the study between 8.00 and 8.30 followed by a working dinner in the Small Dining Room. I know this is difficult but I do hope the problem is not insurmountable.



24 February 1983

MR. COLES

WORKING DINNER FOR MONSIEUR GASTON THORN,
THURSDAY 17 MARCH 1983 AT 8.00 p.m. FOR
8.30 p.m. LOUNGE SUIT

I attach the final list of
guests for this dinner, together with
a draft seating plan.

Lillian

16 March 1983

WORKING DINNER IN HONOUR OF HIS EXCELLENCY MONSIEUR GASTON THORN
THURSDAY 17 MARCH 1983 AT 8.00 p.m. FOR 8.30 p.m. LOUNGE SUIT

His Excellency Monsieur Gaston Thorn

Monsieur Emile Noël

Secretary-General

Monsieur Alexander Schaub

Deputy Chef du Cabinet

The Rt. Hon. Francis Pym, M.C. M.P.

His Excellency Sir Michael Butler

Mr. D. H. A. Hannay

Mr. D. J. S. Hancock

Mr. Brian Unwin

Mr. John Coles

J.M.C. LEEK

DINNER IN HONOUR OF HIS EXCELLENCY MONSIEUR GASTON THORN

THURSDAY 17 MARCH 1983

8.00 for 8.30 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST

His Excellency Sir Michael BUTLER

Mr. John COLES

Mr. D. H. S. HANCOCK

Mr. D. H. A. HANNAY

Monsieur Emile NOEL

The Rt. Hon. Francis PYM

Monsieur Alexander SCHAUB

His Excellency Monsieur Gaston THORN

Mr. Brian UNWIN

DRAFT SEATING PLAN

WINDOW

Mr. D. Hancock

M. Emile
Noël

The Prime
Minister

M. Alexander
Schaub

Mr. John Coles

Mr. D. Hannay


HE Sir
Michael
Butler

HE M. Gaston
Thorn

The Rt. Hon.
Francis Pym

Mr. Brian Unwin

010



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 February 1983

John Thorn

Visit by M. Thorn

David Hancock told me last evening that he had discussed with you the possibility of inviting Thorn to London on the afternoon and evening of Thursday 17 March instead of the following day. He told me that you were thinking in terms of a session of talks with the Prime Minister between 5 and 6 pm and I was asked whether Mr Pym would be prepared to offer him dinner thereafter.

I had a word with the Secretary of State this morning. He is quite prepared to offer dinner, but would, if possible, prefer to offer lunch.

If you can now confirm the appointment at No 10 at 5pm, we will ask Sir M Butler to put these ideas to Thorn.

I am copying this letter to David Hancock (Cabinet Office).

You are
R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 February 1983

*Re B Euro Pd
be Mrs Goodwin
Carlisle Stephen*

Visit of Monsieur Thorn

Would you please ignore my earlier letter of today's date. Sir Michael Butler has since rung to say that it was not the case, as I had been led to believe, that M. Thorn was free to visit London on 14 March. On the contrary, he would need to attend the Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels that day since that Council would be preparing for the European Council later in March.

Following discussion with you, I have now told Sir Michael Butler that the best we can do is to offer a call by M. Thorn on the Prime Minister at 1130 on 18 March (this could last until about 1245) following which the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, may, subject to further confirmation from you, be able to give him lunch. The Prime Minister is already giving a lunch that day.

I told Sir Michael Butler that the difficulty about this arrangement was that 18 March was one of the days which we have kept in reserve in case the Arab League Delegation pays its postponed visit to London. I suggested that he should brief M. Thorn confidentially on this possible obstacle so that, if we were in the end obliged to cancel the arrangements for his own visit to London, he would understand.

I am copying this letter to David Hancock.

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL



FILE

b/c: Mrs Goodchild

R07

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 February, 1983

VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE EC COMMISSION

I heard yesterday from David Hancock that Sir Michael Butler had suggested that the President of the European Commission should call on the Prime Minister in the week beginning 14 March.

The Prime Minister would be glad to have talks with M. Thorn at 1200 hrs on Monday, 14 March, after which she would offer a working lunch.

I should be grateful if these suggestions could be put to M. Thorn. I should also be grateful if you would let me have as soon as possible a suggested guest list for a total of 12 people.

I am copying this letter to David Hancock (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

R. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE,
S.W.1

Roger Bone

*The Private Secretary presents his compliments
and would be grateful if the attached letter / s could
be forwarded to the addressee / s.*



*ce under cover
Mr. P. Lee, No 10.*

return to me

VISIT OF M THORN : 17/18 MARCH

PROGRAMME

17 March

1840 Arrives in private plane at Northolt (from Rotterdam).
Greeted by Sir David Muirhead, Special Representative of the Secretary of State.
Goes with police escort to Commission Office, 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.
After brief stop goes on to No 10 Downing Street.

2000 for Working dinner with the Prime Minister,
2030 Secretary of State and officials.

Overnight Staying at the Stafford Hotel, St James's Place, SW1 (tel no 493 0111).

18 March

0800 Leaves hotel with police escort.
0900 Leaves Northolt for Copenhagen.
Sir David Muirhead will bid farewell.

M Thorn will be accompanied by:

M Emile Noel, Secretary General of the Commission
Mr W Schaub, Deputy Head of M Thorn's Cabinet
Mlle Hoffman, Secretary

Cars to be provided by Commission Office