

CONFIDENTIAL

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Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Would you be prepared to
see M. Thorn at 11.15
on Friday, 2 December?

10 November, 1983

A.S.C. $\frac{14}{11}$

Dear John,

Last time he
complained that he
didn't give him

Possible Visit of the President of the Commission

branch.

You told me this afternoon that Mr Schaub had telephoned
you about Mr Thorn's desire to call on the Prime Minister on
24 or 25 November. Since these dates are impossible, you
asked for advice on whether the Prime Minister should see
Thorn on another date.

So we will have

a meeting

when I

can give

him lunch

not

We have consulted the Foreign Secretary in Athens.
He believes that there are strong arguments in favour of
the Prime Minister seeing Thorn if it can be fitted in.
Although the Commission have been less than helpful recently
in coming out with their redefinition of the UK's budgetary
burden, they may nevertheless have a key role to play in
Athens, either in putting forward compromises which enable
a settlement to be reached, or in helping to avert a breakdown
which could lead to a serious crisis within the Community.
There is every advantage in ensuring that Thorn knows before
he goes to Athens what our position is on the major issues.

The Foreign Secretary therefore hopes that a meeting
can be arranged. We understand from Schaub that Thorn could
make either the morning of 1 December or the late morning or
afternoon of 2 December.

If either of these dates would be convenient for the
Prime Minister, we will confirm arrangements with Schaub.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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PRIME MINISTER

M. THORN

You commented on the attached letter that you wanted to give him lunch. But the only days when you can see him before Athens are Thursday, 1 December and Friday, 2 December. On Thursday you have Questions. On Friday you are lunching with Channel 4.

I honestly do not think he will mind if we explain to him that you only have two full working days between your return from Delhi and the beginning of the Athens Council, that you would have liked to give him lunch but unfortunately are committed on both those days.

Agree that we may arrange a talk for 11.15 on the Friday?

Yes
ms

A.S.C.

16 November 1983



✓

pc DB

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 November 1983

Possible Visit of the President of the
Commission

Thank you for your letter of 10 November.

I can now confirm that the Prime Minister will be prepared to see the President of the Commission at 1115 on Friday 2 December.

In conveying this information to M. Thorn, I should be grateful if you could say that the Prime Minister would have much liked to give M. Thorn a meal during his visit to London; but she will only have two full working days between her return from CHOGM and the beginning of the Athens Council and she is unfortunately fully committed on both those days.

A. J. COLES

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

M. Thom will have with him

M. Noel (Secretary - General of
the Commission) and Dr. Meadows.

On our side, if you agree, the
Foreign Secretary, Sir Michael J. Hill
and Dr. Williamson will attend.

A.S.C. 4/12.

file

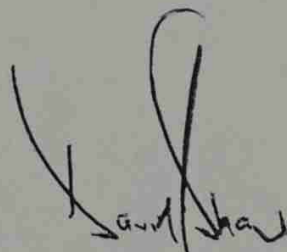
Miss Bannerman
Protocol Dept
OAB SG/104

cc: Mr Wall
Mrs Walters, W52
~~Mr Jose, No 10 Downing Street~~

RA
30/11

VISIT OF M GASTON THORN, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,
FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 1983

1. Further to our telecon I enclose some background material for the benefit of the Special Representative who will greet M Thorn on arrival.
2. The arrival details are still not firm but, at this juncture it seems likely that M Thorn and his party will arrive by air taxi at Northolt at 0930 on Friday 2 December from The Hague. They will then travel to the Commission's London office and subsequently to No 10 for a meeting with the Prime Minister at 1115. The meeting is scheduled to last one hour, and will probably be attended by the Foreign Secretary.
3. The Commission's London office will be responsible for transport arrangements and booking the VIP lounge.
4. I have no timings for M Thorn's departure but there is a possibility that he will travel on to Dublin in the afternoon for a meeting with the Irish Prime Minister.
5. M Thorn will call on the Prime Minister as part of the Commission's preparations for the European Council which will take place in Athens from 4 to 6 December. He is calling in turn on all the Heads of Government of member states who will attend the European Council.



D R Shaw
European Community Dept
(Internal) E121 233 4947

29 November 1983

VISIT OF M GASTON THORN, FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 1983

President's Party

His Excellency Monsieur Gaston Thorn GCVO GCMG
- President of the Commission of the European Communities

✓ Monsieur Emile Noel
- Secretary General to the Commission

✗ Monsieur ~~Jean~~ Durieux
- Chef de Cabinet

✓ Mr Graham Meadows
- Monsieur Thorn's Cabinet

✗ Monsieur ~~Jean Louis~~ Lacroix
- Secretariat General

Madame Heide Hofman
- Secretary

Monsieur PIRZIO BIROLI

Mr Scott - Head of Commission Office in London.

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Cars 901 X 406

— GYE 134N

A 330 TGO

Motor Cycle Escort.

THORN, GASTON, GCVO (1976), GCMG, (1972) (LUXEMBOURG)

President of the Commission since January 1981.

Born 1928. Deported briefly as a schoolboy to Germany during the Nazi occupation. Educated Luxembourg, Montpellier (where his father was employed as a railway engineer), Lausanne and Paris. Doctor of Law. Practised at the Luxembourg Bar, and was active in Luxembourg and international student activities. 1959 elected Deputy and Member of the European Assembly; subsequently Secretary General of its Liberal Group; 1961-4 Luxembourg Municipal Council; 1961-9 President of the Democratic Party. 1969-74 Minister of Foreign Affairs. 1974 Prime Minister of the Country's first Socialist-Liberal coalition. President since 1970 of the Liberal International and President of the Federation of Liberal Parties of the EEC. President of the General Assembly of the United Nations 1975/76. He took over responsibility for Economic Affairs and the Middle Classes in September 1977, having dropped his Ministerial responsibility for Sport and having appointed a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, M Hamilius to assist him.

After the 1979 elections he stood unsuccessfully for election as Liberal candidate for the Presidency of the European Parliament, and returned to Government with six portfolios; Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs, External Trade, the National Economy, the Middle Classes and Justice.

He speaks excellent English.

His wife Liliane is a free-lance journalist who holds particularly strong views on women's rights. Good English. One son born in 1963.