

Original Taped  
on Euro Council Meeting Proc Stuttgart

Classification and Comments

Procedure Deckby

SECRET AND PERSONAL

FLASH

A-J.C. <sup>9</sup>/<sub>5</sub>  
h-a.

1 ZCZC

2 GRS

3 SECRET AND PERSONAL

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6 FM FCO

7 TO FLASH BONN

8 TELEGRAM NO

9 EUROPEAN COUNCIL, STUTTGART: BRITISH ELECTIONS

10 TELECON PRIVATE SECRETARY/EASTWOOD

11 1. Date of elections will be announced here at 1430

12 local time. The Prime Minister would like the following

13 message to be delivered to Chancellor Kohl before then and,

14 failing that, as soon as possible thereafter:

15 Begins.

16 Dear Herr Chancellor

17 We are announcing today that there will be a General

18 Election in the United Kingdom on 9 June. I wanted to be

19 in touch with you at once.

20 After the most careful thought I have decided that it  
21 would not be in the national interest to delay an Election  
22 any longer. But the date I have had to choose is very close  
23 to the European Council in Stuttgart on 6/7 June. We shall  
24 be telling the press in answer to the inevitable questions  
25 that the United Kingdom will of course be represented at

NNNN ends  
telegram

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Catchword  
Stuttgart

File number

Dept

Distribution

Drafted by (Block capitals)

J.P.M.

Telephone number

Authorised for despatch

gf 9/5

Comcon reference

Time of despatch

LIMITED  
Head ECD (1)  
PS  
PS/Mr Hurd  
PS/PUS  
Mr Evans  
Mr James  
Mr Hannay  
Head WED  
Head ECD(E)  
Head, News Dept

PS / No 10

# OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

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SECRET AND PERSONAL

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2 Stuttgart but that decisions on our representation have  
3 yet to be taken.

4 I shall need a little time to consider whether it will  
5 be possible for me to attend the European Council in  
6 person, if only for part of the proceedings. I very much  
7 wanted to attend to help make this Council, under your  
8 Presidency, an outstanding success (and this consideration  
9 has been much in my mind in the difficult decision I had  
10 to make about the timing of the Election). On the other  
11 hand, I know you will understand how difficult it would  
12 be for me to be away from the United Kingdom during the  
13 crucial closing days of our campaign. I shall be in  
14 touch with you again about this issue as soon as possible.

15 Of course, the question of our budget problem now  
16 becomes all the more critical and urgent. I very much  
17 hope that we can find a solution at the Foreign Affairs  
18 Council on 24 May.

19 Meanwhile, I am most grateful to you for all the  
20 help you have given to the United Kingdom and to me  
21 personally. This will be of continuing importance to  
22 me in the days and weeks ahead.

23 With my best wishes, Yours ever, Margaret Thatcher.  
24 Ends.

26 PYM

27 NNNN

NNNN ends  
telegram

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Catchword

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 May 1983

The General Election

I enclose copies of:

- (a) A message which the Prime Minister sent this morning to the President of the United States which deals, inter alia, with the implications of a General Election for her planned visits to Washington and Williamsburg;
- (b) A further message which the Prime Minister has sent to Chancellor Kohl about the European Council in Stuttgart.

I am copying this letter and its enclosures to John Kerr (HM Treasury) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office). I should be grateful if you and they would not circulate the messages beyond Private Offices.

A. J. COLES

Brian Fall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.