

Prime Minister



Are you willing to receive  
a small group of  
Brussels-based journalists  
and tell them about  
our EC policies?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

No

4 October 1983

from John, A.J.C. 5/10

EC Presentation

It will be important for the prospects for a successful outcome at Athens that our EC policies are properly understood in the other Member States. In particular, we need to convince public opinion in Europe that:

- (a) we mean business about a fairer budget and control of CAP spending.
- (b) Britain is finally committed to the future development of the Community.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and Mr Rifkind are making a number of speeches over the next few weeks to explain British thinking. They will supplement this effort with newspaper articles.

The period between the final Special Council (9-12 November) and the European Council (5-6 December) will be particularly important in influencing the outcome of the Athens meeting. We are therefore thinking of inviting over a small group of influential Brussels-based journalists (say one from each Community country) for a couple of days to brief them in London about Britain's approach. Our Community posts all agree that these are the journalists to work on if we are to influence the public opinion in the key Community countries. Such a visit would only make sense, however, if the journalists could be assured of a briefing at the highest political level on Britain's approach to the Athens European Council. Sir Geoffrey hopes, therefore, that the Prime Minister will agree to see the group.

I understand there could be a slot in the Prime Minister's diary late in the afternoon of ~~Thursday~~ 15 November. If this is approved, we will be in touch with the No 10 Press Secretary to fix the details.

Your man  
Robert Bone

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

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Would be  
better on  
10 November.  
AJ 2/10.

AJ Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London W1A 2AH



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cc: Mr. Ingham

10 October 1983

EC PRESENTATION

Thank you for your letter of 4 October in which you ask whether the Prime Minister would be prepared to receive a small group of influential Brussels-based journalists. at some time between 12 November and the European Council on 5-6 December.

Mrs. Thatcher has concluded that in view of her extremely heavy programme in this period she will not be able to receive these journalists.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Brl.