

Germany

23 April, 1982

VISIT OF THE GOVERNING MAYOR OF
BERLIN

Thank you for your letter of 16 April.

As I told you earlier on the telephone, I have no doubt that if Dr von Weizsaecker visits London the Prime Minister will be glad to see him, always assuming that the date is convenient. I agree, therefore, that our Minister in Berlin may speak as you propose.

A. J. COLES

F N Richards, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RM



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 April 1982

Dear John,

Visit of the Governing Mayor of Berlin: 1 - 3 April

In view of the Falkland Islands crisis the call by Dr von Weizsaecker on the Prime Minister that had been arranged for 1115 on 2 April had, as you know, to be cancelled. The Governing Mayor's meeting with Mr Humphrey Atkins had likewise to be cancelled and he was only able to see Lord Carrington for 10 minutes.

Before Dr von Weizsaecker left London we confirmed with your office, and told Weizsaecker, that the Prime Minister would in principle be glad to see him whenever it proves possible to arrange a fresh visit. If you have no objection, we shall ask our Minister in Berlin to confirm this with Dr von Weizsaecker and say that we shall in due course propose dates, although in the circumstances it may be some time before we are able to do so.

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

PM

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE GOVERNING MAYOR OF BERLIN

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Reaffirm British commitment to Berlin.
2. Pleased that external situation remains calm. Scope for progress in inner-German relations?
3. Prospects for the internal situation? Will the squatter problem lead to further violence?
4. How is Berlin coping with the economic recession?

BERLIN

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. The external political situation remains calm. There have been no repercussions from Poland. If anything, the Russians have been even more careful recently to avoid raising contentious issues.
2. But Berlin is affected by the stagnation in inner-German relations. The increase in the GDR Minimum Exchange Requirement (MER) in October 1980 halved the number of visits by West Berliners to East Berlin and the GDR. No substantial GDR concessions have so far resulted from the Schmidt/Honecker meeting in December 1981. The Senat's top priority remains a reduction in the MER, on which progress in other fields will depend.
3. Internally, the Governing Mayor and his Senat remain firmly in the saddle, despite the lack of a CDU parliamentary majority. They can rely on support from 4 or 5 members of the FDP, whose party is riven by local feuding. The SDP remains demoralised. The Alternative Liste (Berlin's equivalent of the 'Greens') is a nuisance factor in Parliament and a focus of youth discontent.
4. Since September there has been no major outbreak of street violence. The Senat's determination to prevent new occupations of empty houses has kept the squatter problem under control, while a dialogue has been opened with moderate elements.

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

in the squatter movement to separate them from the extremists. But violence could break out again in the warmer weather.

5. The West Berlin economy has been hit by the recession. Output has ceased to grow and there is no sign of an upturn. Investment is falling slightly. At the end of February, unemployment stood at 8.8%, 60% higher than at the same time last year and the highest total since 1969. The Senat have had to prune expenditure to meet a cut in the Federal subsidy.

CONFIDENTIAL

VON WEIZSAECKER, DR RICHARD

Governing Mayor of Berlin since 11 June 1981. Chairman of the Berlin CDU.

Born 1920 in Stuttgart, the son of a career diplomat, Ernest von Weizsaecker, who though not a Nazi was State Secretary at the Wilhelmstrasse 1938-43 and was sentenced by a US tribunal in 1949 for complicity in war crimes. The son was called up in 1939 and served with the infantry on the eastern front.

Studied law at, inter alia, Oxford, and helped to defend his father. Entered industry and became a member of the board of Boehringer and Co. President of the German Evangelical Church Conference 1964-70 and 1979-81. Member of the Bundestag from 1969-81, and a Vice Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Party, 1972-79. Nominated to oppose Scheel in the Presidential election of 1974 and did far better than expected against an unbeatable candidate. Author of the party's programme of basic principles, agreed at the 1978 party conference. A Vice President of the Bundestag 1979-81.

Imported by the Berlin CDU, at the last moment, to lead the party into the 1979 Berlin elections, he failed to defeat the SPD/FDP coalition, but achieved a record vote for the CDU. In the elections of 10 May 1981 the CDU under Weizsaecker further increased its share of the vote but with only 48% failed to obtain an absolute majority. Weizsaecker owed his election as Governing Mayor in June 1981 to support from members of the FDP Parliamentary Party and remains dependent on them for his legislative programme.

Weizsaecker is respected for his ability, upright character and charm. He is liberal in his views on both domestic policy and Ostpolitik, and plays an influential and beneficial national role on the side of moderation in his party. He has shown considerable strength in dealing with party and government affairs in Berlin. An old friend of Britain.

Married with four children. He speaks excellent, and his wife adequate, English. Although born a Freiherr (Baron) he prefers not to use his title.

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

31 March 1982

Prime Minister

A.S.C. 1/4

Dear John,

Visit of Governing Mayor of Berlin: 1/3 April

/ Dr Richard von Weizsaecker, Governing Mayor of Berlin (personality note attached), is to pay his first official visit to London on 1/2 April. He will then attend part of the Anglo-German Koenigswinter Conference in Cambridge before leaving for Tel Aviv on 3 April. He is due to call on the Prime Minister at 1115 on 2 April.

/ I attach a brief on Berlin. The city's current problems are on the whole internal rather than external. Dr von Weizsaecker has said that he himself will not wish to raise detailed Berlin issues.

The Governing Mayor is likely to be more keen to discuss wider international affairs and in particular East/West relations. He will speak on the latter at Chatham House on 1 April. The Prime Minister may also like to seek Dr von Weizsaecker's views, as a member of the CDU Federal Presidium, on the political situation in the FRG, in particular the future of the Bonn coalition and the prospects for the forthcoming Land elections.

Dr von Weizsaecker can be expected to extend an invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Berlin. In response to my Secretary of State's suggestion that she should pay a short visit after the autumn Anglo-German Summit, the Prime Minister said she would bear this possibility in mind but did not wish to commit herself at present. A visit by President Reagan following the NATO Summit in June is now in preparation. Dr von Weizsaecker also extended, during his recent visit to Paris, an invitation to President Mitterrand to visit Berlin. This was accepted but no date fixed.

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Yours ever,
Francis P. Kelly
(F N Richardson)
Private Secretary

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Genny

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN FOR THE VISIT OF DR RICHARD VON WEIZSACKER,
GOVERNING MAYOR OF BERLIN, AND FRAU MARIANNE VON WEIZSACKER.
1-2 APRIL

(to be read in conjunction with GHF programme)

Thursday 1 April

Arrival: met by:-

Sir David Muirhead, Special Representative of the Secretary of State;

Mr F R MacGinnis, Minister, British Military Government, Berlin.

Brigadier J A C Cowan, Secretary Government Hospitality Fund
Mr Neville Coppel, Escort Officer.

1200 hours	Arrive Ambassador's Entrance, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, accompanied by Herr Henschel and Herr Kolitzus Met by Miss Katherine Himsworth, Western European Department.
1300	Arrive Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House. Met by Mr David Watt, Director of the Institute.
1445	Arrive at the House of Commons, St Stephen's Entrance. (not as shown in programme).

Friday 2 April

1030	Arrive Ambassador's Entrance, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, met by Miss Katherine Himsworth.
1200	Leave No 10 Downing Street and return to FCO via Ambassador's Entrance. Short briefing with journalists in the Ambassador's Waiting Room.
1245 for 1300	Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government. The following are also invited:- Herr Jorg Henschel Herr Henner Kolitzus.

B C Burrough

30 March 1982

B C Burrough
Visits Section
Protocol and Conference Department
Tel no 233 4227.

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c. Miss Stephens

PM

5 January 1982

Visit of the Governing Mayor of Berlin

Thank you for your letter of 4 January.
The Prime Minister agrees to receive
Dr. von Weizsaecker and could make available
45 minutes at 1015 on 2 April.

A. J. COLES

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Bo



Prime Minister

*You could see him for
45 minutes at 10.15 on 2
April.*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 January 1982

Agree?

*Yes not
A.P.C. 4/1*

Dear John,

Visit of the Governing Mayor of Berlin

My Secretary of State wishes to invite Dr Richard von Weizsaecker, the Governing Mayor of Berlin, to pay his first official visit to this country from 1-3 April. Lord Carrington plans to entertain him to lunch on 2 April.

Von Weizsaecker's responsibilities are, in view of Berlin's special situation, greater than his title suggests. He equates formally to a Minister of Cabinet rank in the Federal Government but his international standing is second only to that of the Chancellor and Foreign Minister. He has held office since the elections in May this year when, under his leadership, the CDU became the largest party in the Berlin House of Representatives and he himself became, with the tacit support of the FDP Parliamentary Party, the first CDU Governing Mayor for over 25 years. He is a highly respected figure throughout Germany and has shown considerable ability in dealing with party and government affairs in Berlin.

Dr von Weizsaecker visited Washington in September where he was given high level treatment which included a meeting with President Reagan. He is expected to visit Paris in February or March. His visit to London will therefore complete his introductory tour of Allied capitals.

Herr Stobbe, Governing Mayor of Berlin from 1977 to January 1981, was received by the Prime Minister on both his official visits to London. Lord Carrington believes that it is important that we should continue to demonstrate the importance we attach to our commitment to Berlin and hopes the Prime Minister will agree to receive Dr von Weizsaecker on 1 or 2 April.

*Yours ever
B J P*

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street