

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Call by Governing Mayor of Berlin

11 July

Herr Diepgen is to call on you tomorrow morning. He will be accompanied by Herr von Alten, the German Charge d'Affairs. Sir J. Bullard will support.

I suggest meeting in the White Drawing Room.

A card is attached together with a personality note, briefs, and the text of your speech in Berlin.

CDD

10 July 1984

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HERR EBERHARD DIEPGEN

Governing Mayor of Berlin. Chairman of the Berlin Christian Democratic Union Party (CDU) and member of the Federal Executive of the CDU.

Born 13 November 1941 in the Wedding district of Berlin. 1960-67, studied law at the Free University Berlin. 1962 President of the Students' Union. 1965-66 Vice-President of the Union of German Students. 1968-72 junior barrister at the Berlin Supreme Court. In legal practice since 1972. Member of the CDU since 1962. 1967-71 in local government in the Tiergarten district of Berlin; helped to frame legislation on tertiary education. Member of the House of Representatives and of the Berlin CDU Executive since 1971. 1971-1975 Chairman of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives. 1981-84 leader of the CDU Parliamentary Party in Berlin. 1983 member of the Federal Executive of the CDU and Land Chairman of the Berlin CDU. Elected to succeed Richard von Weizsaecker as Governing Mayor of Berlin in February 1984 on the latter's nomination as CDU/CSU candidate for the Federal Presidency.

One of the most able and active second generation post-war CDU politicians in Berlin. Worked closely with Herr von Weizsaecker, who saw him as his natural successor. An undisputed expert in party, parliamentary and local affairs. Keen to promote technological/cultural/commercial links between Berlin and the United Kingdom.

/Married



Married, with two children. Speaks some English and understands more (but will be accompanied by an interpreter). Visited the United Kingdom as a guest of Her Majesty's Government in 1977. As Governing Mayor, visited Washington in April 1984, and is to visit Paris in the autumn.

BERLIN

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. The external political situation remains generally calm. The Russians and the GDR have been careful recently to avoid serious acts of provocation (though the three Western Powers are keeping a careful watch on Soviet interference with the status quo in the air corridors linking Berlin to the FRG). Although operating from a very different perspective, and for his own purposes, the GDR Head of State, Erich Honecker, appears as keen as Chancellor Kohl to insulate Inner-German relations from current East/West tensions. There are plans for him to visit the FRG for the first time in September. Berlin stands to benefit from such upturns in FRG/GDR political relations.

2. It is not clear whether Chancellor Kohl will require concessions from Honecker as a price for his visit. Berliners would welcome any reduction in the GDR Minimum Exchange Requirement (MER), which was increased drastically in 1980 and halved the number of visits by West Berliners to East Berlin and the GDR.

3. Internally, the Governing Mayor and his Senat look forward with some trepidation to the elections on 10 March 1985. The ruling CDU/FDP coalition would suffer if the FDP failed to win the necessary 5% of the vote - which would mean that the FDP lost all its seats in the

House of Representatives. The SDP have put up a political heavy-weight to oppose Diepgen (Hans Apel, former Federal Defence Minister). But his moderate SPD line may not win whole hearted support from local left wing activists. The Alternative Liste (Berlin's equivalent of the Greens) is a nuisance factor in Parliament, and stands to gain considerably in the March elections. Both the Alternative Liste and the SPD have criticised the construction of a firing range at RAF Gatow (Berlin) for British troops. Herr Diepgen is likely to raise this sensitive issue during his talks at the FCO. An action against the Attorney-General and the General Officer commanding British forces in Berlin, brought by Berliners living near the site, is now before the High Court here.

4. The West Berlin economy is showing signs of recovery after 3 years of recession. Business confidence is improving. GDP should grow by 3-4% this year; but unemployment will remain higher in Berlin (10.3%) than in the FRG (8.6%). Chancellor Kohl and Herr Diepgen's predecessor as Governing Mayor, Richard von Weizsaecker, held a successful industrialists' conference in 1982 to persuade major companies visit in the FRG to manufacture in Berlin. Herr Diepgen and the Chancellor held a second conference in Berlin on 20 June 1984. During this visit Herr Diepgen is keen to promote commercial links and high technology exchanges between Berlin and the UK. His crowded programme is intended to enable him to make appropriate contacts.

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT HON MARGARET THATCHER MP,
ON FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 1982 AT THE GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY,
RATHAUS SCHÖNEBERG, BERLIN.

BRITAIN'S SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM

My Lord mayor, Chancellor Kohl, Ladies and Gentlemen,
thank you for the very warm welcome you have given me here
today. It is an honour for me to sign your Golden Book,
on this my first visit to Berlin.

THE MESSAGE OF BERLIN

Your great city has profound significance for all mankind.
No other place brings home so forcefully the realities of the
world in which we live.

Berlin has two fundamental messages.

The first is one of warning. This city reminds us - that
we live in the shadow of a power dedicated to the denial of
all that we believe in - reminds us that we must be vigilant,
strong and determined in the defence of liberty and justice
if our peoples are to continue to enjoy the way of life
which they have freely chosen.

Here in Berlin meet the ideologies of East and West. Here,
men and women have demonstrated their passion for liberty by
fleeing from one to the other, always at great risk, often at
great cost. You live but a short step from oppression, they
a short step from liberty. Here, freedom is always at issue.
But if the first message is one of warning, the second message
is one of hope.

It is nearly 40 years since Greater Berlin was divided.
Recently, your city has not escaped the effects of economic
recession. Few have. But Berlin has strong vitality. Free
Berlin flourishes. It is a centre of excellence in the arts.
It is renowned for scientific endeavour. It is a living
proof of what man can achieve if he will. This success is
a tribute to the character of the people in Berlin. In

/circumstances

circumstances which are vulnerable and exposed you have remained steadfast, calm and confident over many years. That is why I and many other Western leaders come to this city, not just as your guarantors, but as your admirers.

The Wall

Mr Mayor, this afternoon, for the first time in my life I saw the Wall in all its menacing reality. It is a grim monument to a cruel and desolate creed. Every stone bears witness to the moral bankruptcy of the society it encloses. And yet hundreds of East Berliners have escaped by extraordinary routes which had they been invented by a teller of tales, would have been dismissed as fanciful. They tunnel, they fly, they float, they sail, they swim. they drive, they even parachute to liberty. The communists will stop at nothing to keep people in. They even flaunt their ruthlessness and barbarism in their desperate attempts to stop the flight to freedom. The Wall is also an ever-present reminder that those who repress the liberties of our Eastern neighbours seek also to extinguish our own. Let us resolve that they must never succeed.

Defence of Liberty

For the defence of liberty, we need the means and the will. Both must be clearly evident if we are to deter our potential adversaries.

As to the means, we must maintain the necessary level of conventional armed forces, and of nuclear weapons. Over 30 years ago the men of the Royal Air Force played their part in the Airlift to Berlin. We had the means. But we also had the will. This afternoon, I have met some of the British Forces stationed here today. Their presence demonstrates the continuing commitment of Britain, with our French and American Allies, to uphold the freedom of your city. They remain here because there is a vital task for them to do and because you want them to do it.

We have our wider, collective responsibilities as members of NATO and of the European Community. We shall work, to ensure that these cornerstones of Western freedom continue to guard our way of life. Together we are stronger than when we act alone. Mr Mayor, if liberty is assaulted in one place, it is diminished everywhere. If we in Europe fail to stand by our commitments in any one place, then our willingness to stand by them in another is questioned.

That is why, as you kindly reminded us, earlier this year, British Forces sailed 8,000 miles to expel a foreign invader. When the aggressor abandoned the path of negotiation and resorted to force, we had no choice. We could not accept that the liberty of British people to enjoy their chosen way of life should be extinguished. There were those who argued that force should not have been used, that the liberty of a small number of people many miles away in the South Atlantic was not worth so much effort and sacrifice. That argument has a hollow ring, above all here in Berlin. You have a special need to know that Britain honours her obligations, and I come before you as Prime Minister of a country which has so recently proved that.

Strength Leads to Cooperation

Berlin teaches us something else as well - teaches us that strength and determination not only keep the peace, the peace that we have already enjoyed for 37 years, but they can lead to reduction in tension, to greater East/West cooperation. Is this a paradox? No: because it is weakness that tempts the aggressor. It is strength that leads to discussion and negotiation.

Thanks to the determination shown by the West and by the people of Berlin themselves, it proved possible to negotiate practical arrangements with the Soviet authorities in the Quadripartite Agreement of 1971. These arrangements reduced the tension which has for so many years affected the life of this city. And again, because the Western Alliance is strong in both capacity and resolve, the negotiations to achieve a balanced reduction in nuclear weapons and conventional forces have a better chance of success. We would welcome, indeed we seek, arms reductions which do not jeopardise our security or our way of life. The West

/must

must negotiate, patiently and tenaciously, to this end. We in Britain will continue to work for peace. Peace, not at any price, but peace with freedom and justice. And we shall seek improved relations between East and West. But this requires a two-way effort and greater respect for international law and human rights than we have seen in recent years. As Chancellor Kohl said on 13 October, and I quote his words:-

"Walls, barbed wire and orders to shoot are not and cannot be the last word between East and West, in Germany, in Europe or in the World."

The Free Society

There are forces more powerful and more pervasive than the apparatus of war. You may chain a man - but you cannot chain his mind. You may enslave him but you cannot conquer his spirit. In every decade since the War the Soviet leaders have been reminded that their pitiless ideology only survives because it is maintained by force. But the day comes when the anger and frustration of people is so great that force cannot contain it. Then the edifice cracks: and the mortar crumbles. That is the lesson of Poland.

There will be attempts to shore up the edifice but the world knows that in Poland things will never be quite the same again. The renewal and reform which the Polish people seek must come, or there will be no lasting stability or prosperity in that unhappy country. The Polish authorities must change course. In the long run, they have no realistic alternative. Poland's history proves.

Mr Mayor, what the Berlin Wall really reveals is not so much how we are threatened by the Soviet Union and her Allies but how they feel threatened by our ideals and our values. Yet, as the Great Austrian Chancellor, Metternich, is reported to have said:

/"It

"It is useless to close the gates against ideas: ideas will overleap the gates."

Who better qualified to come to that conclusion than Metternich? He devoted his long life to the preservation of autocracy. But the revolution of 1848 showed him that all his efforts to prevent the spread of liberty and the ideals of freedom had been in vain. The Kremlin knows that when people are free to choose, they choose to be free.

One day, liberty will dawn on the other side of the Wall.



PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE GOVERNING MAYOR OF
BERLIN

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Reaffirm British commitment to Berlin. Pleased that external situation remains calm. Much activity in Inner-German relations - prospects for Honecker's visit to the Federal Republic in September?
2. Prospects for the Berlin elections in March?
3. How is Berlin coping with the economic recession? Understand that Industrialists Conferences chaired by Federal Chancellor/Governing Mayor have succeeded in attracting new investment. Hope Governing Mayor's programme (talks with Kenneth Baker, visit to Cambridge Science Park, address to British businessmen) will lead to greater bilateral trade.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 July, 1984

Jan Auber,

Visit of Governing Mayor of Berlin: 10-13 July

Herr Eberhard Diepgen, Governing Mayor of Berlin (personality note attached) is to pay his first official visit to London on 10 to 13 July. He is due to call on the Prime Minister at 0930 on 11 July.

/ I enclose a brief.

Unlike his predecessor, Dr Richard von Weizsaecker, the Governing Mayor is a young Berliner relatively inexperienced in international affairs. He understands English, but will converse in German. He will be accompanied by the Deputy Senate spokesman, Jorg Henschel; his Private Secretary, Lothar Kaltoven; the Charge d'Affairs of the FRG Embassy, Jurgen von Alten; and an interpreter, Frau Brigitte Amedinck. Sir J Bullard, HM Ambassador Designate to Bonn, and Mr David Wyatt (Minister, British Military Government Berlin) are available to attend.

Herr Diepgen comes to London as the second stage of the customary initial round of visits to Allied capitals by a new Governing Mayor (he was in Washington in April, and goes to Paris in the autumn). He is pre-occupied by the prospect of elections in Berlin in March 1985. He enters the election campaign in coalition with the shaky FDP.

/ The Prime Minister may wish to recall her visit to Berlin in October 1982. I attach a copy of her Berlin speech. The Secretary of State has accepted an invitation from the Berliner Pressekonferenz to make a speech in Berlin on 10 December. We have not yet announced this visit publicly, but Herr Diepgen has welcomed it privately.

Copies of this letter and its enclosures to to PS/Mr Baker (DTI) and PS/Mr Waldegrave (DOE), since their Ministers will also receive Herr Diepgen during his visit.

John
R B Bone
(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

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