



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

27 April 1987

**MESSAGE TO MARK THE 750th  
ANNIVERSARY OF BERLIN**

I enclose the text of the message to mark the 750th Anniversary of Berlin which the Prime Minister will record for ZDF this afternoon. I should be grateful for confirmation by 1230 that there are no problems with the text.

(Charles Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ECU

MESSAGE TO MARK THE 750TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERLIN

I am very happy to join with so many others from all round the world in marking the 750th Anniversary of Berlin, and in wishing success to your celebrations.

We are delighted that Her Majesty The Queen will soon be visiting you, to demonstrate once again Britain's unswerving support for your city and its people.

I know from my own visit in 1982 how lively, prosperous and exciting Berliners have made the western part of their city. It stands as a symbol of freedom and of hope, an inspiration to those who enjoy neither.

The Wall that divides your city is the cruellest of the many barriers which Communism has erected against freedom and against democracy.

When I visited the Soviet Union last month, I heard a great deal about the new spirit of open-ness. Of course, we welcome that. But the real proof that open-ness is working will be when the Wall comes down, and Berlin can again be one city. That is our dream and our prayer.

Meanwhile, let me use the opportunity of this anniversary to give you once again a solemn pledge of Britain's steadfast commitment to maintain the Allied presence in Berlin as long as it is necessary. When I spoke in your city in 1982, I said "British forces are in Berlin because there is a vital task for them to do and because you want them to do it". That is as true today. Their presence is living proof of our resolve to defend your right to freedom. We shall not falter.

I send you all my heartfelt good wishes.





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 April 1987

*Concise.*

*Dear Michael,*

750th Anniversary of Berlin

Thank you for your letter of 9 April to Tony Galsworthy asking for a message for the Prime Minister to record for German Television on the occasion of the 750th Anniversary of Berlin.

/ I attach a draft.

*Yours sincerely,*

*L Parker*

(L Parker)  
Private Secretary

Michael Horne Esq  
Press Office  
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

30 June 1986

750TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERLIN IN 1987

Thank you for your letter of 26 June about the celebration of the 750th anniversary of Berlin in 1987. The Prime Minister will want to wait and see what President Mitterrand and President Reagan decide. In the meantime you should not give any impression that the Prime Minister is likely to attend this event.

I am copying this letter to John Howe (Ministry of Defence) and Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 June 1986



*Mr. Ryder*

*For a  
diary meeting, I think.*

*CDP  
27/6.*

*Dear Charles,*

750th Anniversary of Berlin in 1987

The Berlin authorities have informed us that they intend to issue an invitation to the Prime Minister, President Reagan and President Mitterrand to visit Berlin in the context of its 750th Anniversary in 1987. They have suggested that the visit take place immediately after the Economic Summit, for which the Italians are likely to propose dates in early May.

The Anniversary will be celebrated on both sides of the Wall. It is clear that the GDR will exploit it to promote the Soviet Sector of the city as its "capital" and the authentic Berlin. It is an inconvenient fact that the historic centre of Berlin is in the Soviet Sector. The GDR will have the support of the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries in mounting a major propaganda occasion. The GDR is already making efforts to attract artists and leading personalities to East Berlin in 1987.

The Protecting Powers together with the FRG intend to make a major effort to support the celebrations in the Western Sectors of the city. We have proposed that The Queen visit the city to take the salute at Her Birthday Parade on 27 May 1987. On the cultural side a number of important British events are being prepared including a visit by the Royal Ballet.

A visit by the leaders of the three Protecting Powers would be a spectacular demonstration of their continuing resolve to defend the city's freedom and viability. It would be the first by all three together. It would have much greater political and popular impact than anything the GDR and its Allies could stage in East Berlin. The visit, which need not last more than a few hours, could be the occasion for a joint declaration by the three leaders restating the commitment of the Protecting Powers to Berlin.

/Sir Geoffrey Howe

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Sir Geoffrey Howe's advice is that the Prime Minister agree in principle to pay such a visit to Berlin, if Presidents Reagan and Mitterrand are also willing to go. If the Prime Minister agrees, we would discuss the proposal with the French and Americans with a view to preparing a joint response when the invitation is received.

Given President von Weizsäcker's special interest in Berlin as former Governing Mayor, it is possible that he will mention the idea when the Prime Minister sees him during the State Visit (1-4 July).

I am copying this letter to Michael Stark in Sir Robert Armstrong's office and to John Howe in the MOD.

*Yours ever,*

*Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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