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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

20 January 1988

From the Private Secretary

MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR KOHL

Herr Teltschik telephoned this morning to say that Chancellor Kohl would like to come to London to see the Prime Minister on the morning of Tuesday 2 February to discuss the European Council. He would come only with Herr Stavenhagen, State Secretary in the Federal Chancellery, and possibly a note-taker. He would have to return at lunch-time, and therefore envisaged a meeting running from 0930-1230. This was in effect the only date which the Chancellor could manage. After consulting the Prime Minister I have told Herr Teltschik that the Chancellor would be welcome. It was not an ideal date, not least because of the coincidence with the Foreign Ministers' conclave. But if it was really the only one the Chancellor could manage we could accept it. Teltschik repeated that unfortunately there was no remaining free date. In the light of recent press comment it was very important that the Prime Minister and the Chancellor should meet.

I should be grateful if you would now make the necessary arrangements with the Germans. Given the time pressure on the Chancellor and to avoid the morning rush hour, I suggest that we should bring him into London by helicopter.

I will consult the Prime Minister in due course about participation in the talks.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan (HM Treasury), Shirley Stagg (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and Roger Lavelle (Cabinet Office).

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

*Discussed
on*

MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR KOHL

Herr Teltschik telephoned this morning to say that Chancellor Kohl would very much like to come over for a bilateral with you before the European Council. Unfortunately because of all his other commitments as President of the Council, the options were very limited. He proposed 0930-1230 on Tuesday 2 February.

From the point of view of preparation for the European Council this is quite a good date. It comes after the Anglo/French Summit and still far enough ahead of the European Council to have some influence on its outcome. It is helpful that Kohl is ready to come here rather than asking you to go to Bonn. From the diary point of view it is less good. You have a Ministerial meeting on the Health Service and a MISC 128 planned for that morning. But I suppose they could be moved. I have explained to Herr Teltschik that you could not give the Chancellor lunch that day because it is Questions. He said that the Chancellor would anyway need to get back quickly to Bonn.

Chancellor Kohl's intention is to come with the Head of the Federal Chancellery and a note-taker only, but no officials from the Foreign or Agriculture Ministries.

Agree to a meeting on 2 February?

C.D.P.

(C. D. POWELL)

20 January 1988

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

22 January 1988

**PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH
CHANCELLOR KOHL**

I think it would probably be helpful if at the end of their meeting on 2 February, the Prime Minister and Chancellor Kohl were to say a few words to the press. This should help dispel some of the stories about coolness in their relations. I have discussed this with Bernard Ingham. While we are reluctant, if only for timing reasons, to envisage a full-scale press conference, the weather at this time of year makes a doorstep press conference in Downing Street a pretty risky operation. We are therefore investigating the possibility of doing a 10-15 minute press conference in 12 Downing Street at 1215 that day. Does this strike you as a good idea?

C D POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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