

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE

KK IAAW

CCPC



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

27 July 1988

**BERLIN: PROPOSED VISIT BY THE GOVERNING MAYOR AND POSSIBLE
SPEECH IN BERLIN BY THE PRIME MINISTER**

Thank you for your letter of 26 July about the proposed visit of the Governing Mayor of Berlin. I am afraid that the dates he has proposed of 22-24 November are completely unacceptable so far as the Prime Minister is concerned. She will not be able to see him at all at that time or the week either side of these dates. She would of course be ready to meet him on some other occasion, possibly in December or early next year.

The Prime Minister is not able to accept the invitation from the Berlin Press Conference to speak at their annual dinner in December.

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

Tessa

Is this flexible?

Robbly with

Charles

C M

No: State Opening is almost
certain to be on 22 Nov.
(though not confirmed)
I have therefore got quite
clear days at present
but presumption of work
needs the time for fact. etc.
Tess.

27/7

Also: please don't make her
go to Berlin!

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 July 1988

Dear Charles,

Berlin: Proposed visit by the Governing Mayor and
possible speech in Berlin by the Prime Minister

The Governing Mayor of Berlin, Herr Diepgen, has indicated that he would like to visit London on 22-24 November. He plans to visit Paris later in the year. He has already been to Washington, in April.

Diepgen now dominates the Berlin political scene; he is expected to win comfortably the next Berlin elections in January 1989; and he is increasingly influential in Bonn also, particularly on inner-German questions. This will be his third official visit since becoming Governing Mayor. He was received by the Prime Minister on both of the previous occasions, and she saw him again during her own visit to Berlin last September. He would hope to call on her during this visit. (He saw President Reagan in April). In view of our special responsibility for Berlin, the Foreign Secretary recommends that the Prime Minister should receive Diepgen on this occasion also. If the Prime Minister agrees, it would be helpful to have an indication of when a call might take place.

Speech at Berlin Press Conference

The Berlin Press Conference (Pressekonferenz) have indicated that they would like to invite the Prime Minister to speak at their annual dinner, which takes place in early December (dates flexible), and is traditionally the occasion for a major speech on East/West relations (the Foreign Secretary was guest speaker in 1984). A speech by the Prime Minister would undoubtedly receive wide coverage, particularly in Germany. The Prime Minister decided not to take up a similar invitation last year as she was already visiting Berlin for the IDU Conference in September. This year she is due to speak in Bruges in September on a European theme, and may be reluctant to take on too many speaking engagements. If, however, she were attracted by the idea of a speech this year on East/West relations, the Foreign Secretary believes that this would be a suitable platform.

Yours ever,

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

