



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

13 October 1988

Dear Helmut,

Thank you for your letter of 20 September inviting me to hold a discussion with you on the future of Europe and of the Common Market, to be published in "Die Zeit". I think that my views are firmly enough on record with the Bruges speech and I have nothing new to add, for the time being at least. So I would prefer not to take up the suggestion, at this stage anyway.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Herr Helmut Schmidt.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 October 1988

Dear Charles,

Die Zeit: Request by Helmut Schmidt for interview
with the Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 28 September enclosing an invitation from Helmut Schmidt to the Prime Minister to hold a discussion on the future of Europe and the Common Market, for publication in "Die Zeit".

"Die Zeit" is the Federal Republic's leading intellectual weekly newspaper, with a circulation of 470,000 and is a major forum for political debate and discussion. An interview with the Prime Minister would attract national - and international - attention.

However "Die Zeit" has on occasion been critical of British policies and Herr Schmidt would have no particular interest in presenting the Prime Minister's views in an unbiased way. The Foreign Secretary thinks it would be better to find another opportunity to give an interview rather than this one whose presentation will be coloured by Herr Schmidt's own opinions. He therefore recommends that the Prime Minister turn down the invitation. I enclose a draft reply accordingly.

Yours,

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

TO:

Copies to:

Herr Helmut Schmidt
Zeitverlag Gerd Bucerius KG¹
Pressehaus, Postfach 106820
2000 Hamburg 1
Federal Republic of Germany

SUBJECT:

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A7V

Thank you for your letter of 20 September inviting me to hold a discussion with you to be published in "Die Zeit" on the future of Europe and of the Common Market.

With a very hectic programme ahead of me, I cannot see my way to doing this just now, so I hope you will understand that I cannot say yes at this stage. May I ^{again} send you my best wishes for your new career as a publisher.

I think that your views are fairly enough on record & that I really have nothing to add for the time being.

Moreover, the next few months are

very busy. So I am afraid that I have to say ~~no~~ must decline your invitation.
En...

Enclosures flag(s)

e it would be difficult to find time

GERMANY: relations pt 4.

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