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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE GOVERNING MAYOR OF BERLIN

You are to have a brief meeting with the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Herr Diepgen. This will be the third time that he has called on you at No.10. You also met him when you visited Berlin in September 1987.

The main purpose of the visit is to underline the continuing strong UK commitment to Berlin. It is important for the Governing Mayor to be seen to be received regularly at the highest level here.

Herr Diepgen is of course CDU by affiliation and faces re-election at the end of January. He should win comfortably and hopes that some of your lustre will help him.

The points you might cover are:

- compliment him on West Berlin's strong economic performance and its wider success in 1988 as the site of the World Bank/IMF meeting and its nomination of European City of Culture.
- welcome the excellent working relationship between the British and Berlin authorities.
- have a general discussion of East/West relations and arms control, warning against too relaxed and optimistic interpretation of Soviet intentions and policies. It was clear from Chancellor Kohl's meetings with Gorbachev that the Russians are not ready for any move forward on Berlin.
- you might ask for his assessment of the general political situation in West Germany; and the reaction to perestroika and Gorbachev's other new policies in East Germany.

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CHARLES POWELL

11 January 1989

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cc PC
✓ BUP

Foreign and Commonwealth Office



London SW1A 2AH

11 January 1989

Dear Charles,

Call on the Prime Minister by the Governing Mayor of
Berlin at 1700 on Thursday 12 January

Herr Diepgen will be accompanied for this call of thirty minutes by the new German Ambassador, Baron Hermann von Richthofen, and by his personal interpreter, Brigitte Amedinck. As agreed, Mr Michael Burton, Minister at the British Military Government, will also attend. I have not been able to show this letter to the Foreign Secretary: I shall do so on his return.

/ I enclose a personality note on Diepgen, and the programme for his visit.

This is Diepgen's third official visit to the UK since his election as Governing Mayor in February 1984. His last was in December 1986. Since then he has consolidated his position in the Berlin leadership. The celebrations of the city's 750th Anniversary in 1987 were a success. Berlin gained extensive international exposure in 1988 from its nomination as European City of Culture and from successfully mounting the IMF/IBRD Annual Meetings. Diepgen has also won good opinions in Berlin for his dealings with the GDR. In addition to improved arrangements for travel between East and West Berlin, there have been agreements on an exchange of territories between the Eastern and Western sectors, and on the opening of a new crossing point between West Berlin and the GDR.

Diepgen is therefore likely to be in confident and positive mood. He has just visited Paris (20-22 December), where he saw M Rocard, and he will be hoping to use his visit to London to polish his image at home in the run-up to the Berlin elections on 29 January. The Socialist (SPD) Opposition have had a poor year, and have not been able to identify any issue which could prove a serious challenge to Diepgen. His re-election is a virtual certainty.

We recommend that the Prime Minister congratulate Diepgen on the continued growth in Berlin's prosperity and on its success as a visible example of Western values. Beyond that, there are no specific Berlin issues we recommend the Prime Minister raise. Relations between the Allied Protecting Powers in Berlin and Berliners remain very good, and regular and close consultation is now the accepted practice. Diepgen has said that he will be bringing to London the message that the relationship between Berliners and the British authorities there in particular were at present unclouded by any significant differences between us.

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We therefore recommend that the Prime Minister turn the conversation, as when she last met Diepgen in Berlin in September 1987, towards broader matters of East/West relations. Diepgen will be especially interested in the Prime Minister's assessment of the present situation in the light of Gorbachev's UN speech, and in her view of the prospects for his reform programme. A realistic account could help to counter some of the more euphoric impressions carried by the German media.

The Prime Minister might also draw Diepgen out on his own view of Berlin's role in the future. Diepgen hopes to be able to take advantage of the improvement in East/West relations, and has an understandable wish to play his own part in reducing tensions and divisions within Germany. If Diepgen seemed unduly optimistic about Soviet attitudes towards Germany and Berlin, the Prime Minister might reiterate the caution she expressed at their meeting in 1987 against blurring or ignoring the deep philosophical and political differences that remain between East and West. She might instance the negative Soviet response to the Allied Initiative on Berlin. The Initiative followed President Reagan's speech in Berlin in June 1987 when he called upon the Soviet Union to work with the Western Allies to improve commercial air services to Berlin; to bring international meetings (including UN meetings) to the City; to sponsor youth exchanges and cultural events there; and to hold joint sporting events in both East and West Berlin. The Soviet reply to a subsequent Allied Aide Memoire was to suggest consultations only on West Berlin and revealed no readiness to consider the improvements suggested by the Allies. The Allies, who have formally asked the Russians to think again, hope for eventual progress. But Gorbachev's attitudes concerning the German question and Berlin when raised by Chancellor Kohl in Moscow in October give little ground to expect early movement.

We do not expect Diepgen to raise the question of Berlin Air Services with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister may wish to be aware, however, that Diepgen has expressed concern about disagreements between the three Allies over the management of the Air Services, fearing that the uncertainty could be damaging. In practice the services have not been disrupted, and there are now more connections between Berlin and the FRG than ever before. The Allies are committed to reaching agreement on a longer-term framework for managing the Berlin Air Services and Diepgen takes a keen interest in the progress of the negotiations (to which neither the Berliners nor the FRG are a party, although they are kept closely informed). If, contrary to expectation, Diepgen should raise the subject, we recommend that the Prime Minister note his concern, but point out that flights were never interrupted,

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that services have improved substantially in number and quality, and that the Allies are working hard to reach a new agreement by 1 February designed to avoid future problems.

I am copying this letter to John Weston (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

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DIEPGEN, EBERHARD

Governing Mayor of Berlin, Chairman of the Berlin CDU and member of the Federal Executive of the CDU.

Born 13 November 1941 in Berlin. Studied law at the Free University Berlin. 1968-72 junior barrister at the Berlin Supreme Court. In legal practice from 1972. Member of the CDU since 1962. Member of the House of Representatives and of the Berlin Party Executive since 1971. 1980-84 Leader of the Parliamentary Party in Berlin. Elected to succeed Richard von Weizsäcker as Governing Mayor in February 1984 on the latter's nomination as CDU/CSU candidate for Federal Presidency. Returned to power convincingly in the 1985 Berlin elections. Handsomely re-elected as CDU Chairman in November 1987.

Since 1984 he has emerged as a skilful, popular and effective Governing Mayor. The first Berlin-born Mayor, he is now a significant political figure in his own right and will be his party's chief asset in their campaign to retain power in the 1989 Berlin elections. His firm control of the Senat and CDU, together with his local popularity, (further enhanced during Berlin's 750th Anniversary celebrations in 1987), have enabled him to continue to develop his own dialogue with the GDR, despite some Allied anxiety, misgivings in Bonn and periodic GDR obstacles. While he is still a little provincial in his outlook, his political stature and experience continue to grow. He is likely to be a major figure in Berlin politics for many years to come unless he departs for the wider political stage in Bonn.

Married. Two children. Speaks increasingly good English. Visited the UK in 1977; then in 1984 after becoming Governing Mayor, briefly in 1985, and most recently in December 1986.

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che

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 September 1988

**BERLIN: PROPOSED VISIT BY
GOVERNING MAYOR**

esp

Thank you for your letter of 2 September.
The Prime Minister could see Herr Diepgen
at 1700 on Thursday 12 January.

(C. D. POWELL)

J. S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET

Tessa

Does this look
a grater?

Charles

CD

1700 Tuesday 12th
January.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 September 1988

Dear Charles,

Berlin: Proposed visit by the Governing Mayor

Thank you for your letter of 27 July, in which you said that the Prime Minister would be ready to meet Diepgen, perhaps early next year, but that the dates earlier envisaged (22-24 November) were unacceptable.

Diepgen has now proposed new dates of 11-13 January 1989. I should be grateful to know if the Prime Minister could receive Diepgen during that period, and for an indication of when a call might take place.

Yours,

Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)

Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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