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*From the Private Secretary*

23 January 1989

When you called on the Prime Minister you mentioned the CDU Economic Council's invitation to her to address them in Bonn on 17 or 18 October. We have now looked more closely at the practicalities of this and I am afraid that the Prime Minister simply cannot undertake it because of her need to arrive in Kuala Lumpur for the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 18 October. However, I hope that the Council will not abandon the idea and feel able to renew the invitation to the Prime Minister for some future occasion.

If by any chance the Council were to wish another senior British Minister to speak in the Prime Minister's place this year, I hope you will let me know and I will do my best to help arrange it.

C. D. POWELL

His Excellency Baron Hermann von Richthofen

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 January 1989

*Jean Charles,*

CDU Economic Council, 17-18 October

Thank you for your letter of 10 January recording the Prime Minister's meeting with the new Federal German Ambassador. You asked for further details about the CDU Economic Council to which the Prime Minister has been invited.

The CDU Economic Council, a gathering of about 1500 top German businessmen, meets roughly once every two years. This year the Council will meet in Bonn. In 1987, the key participants were Kohl and several Federal Ministers. The 1989 programme suggests a similar cast, with the addition of Bangemann, Waigel (the new leader of the CSU) and Herrhausen (Head of Deutsche Bank).

The audience at the Economic Council will be as influential and sympathetic as could be found in the Federal Republic. There would be excellent German media coverage. This would be a good opportunity to get across our thinking on economic policy and the development of the Community to an audience which shares many of our views on competition and deregulation.

The organisers had envisaged a speech by the Prime Minister at 1830 on 17 October. They hoped that she might stop over on her way from London to Malaysia, but I understand that travel arrangements to CHOGM will probably make this impossible. Should the invitation be renewed for some future meeting of the Council, it would certainly be worth considering. If you had the impression from von Richthofen that the invitation for 1989 might be transferable to another member of the Government, Sir Christopher Mallaby is confident that the Chancellor or perhaps Lord Young would be welcomed by the Council participants.

*Yours ever,*

*Richard Gozney*

(R H T Gozney)  
Private Secretary

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Germany: Pm3 mtg. with

FRG Ambassador

June 79

