



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 February 1989

SUBJECT

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MINISTER

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T43/89

Monsieur le Président

May I thank you most warmly for your hospitality at the Anglo-French Summit in Paris yesterday. I fear that for you it came very soon after what must have been a long and tiring journey back from Tokyo. It was most considerate of you to go ahead with our meeting all the same. As always I found our talks of great value, in particular the opportunity to hear your thoughts on the forthcoming Economic Summit and on the French Presidency of the European Community in the latter part of this year, as well as on the important issues which we shall consider at the proposed NATO Summit. I am most grateful also to M. Rocard and to all those of your Ministers who took part in the meeting for their contribution.

The arrangements for the Summit - as for my private programme over the weekend - were very well done and I hope that my gratitude can be conveyed to all those responsible.

Yours sincerely

Norfolk House

His Excellency le Président Mitterrand, GCB.



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 February 1989

Dear Sara and Ewen.

I cannot tell you how much we enjoyed our weekend in Paris. It was marvellous to have a break from the routine of London and Chequers - and very good of you and Sara to go to so much trouble for us. Your dinner guests were very well chosen and I was delighted to have the chance to talk both to Raymond Barre and Jacques Chirac, as well as to meet some new faces. There is no doubt that Madame Cresson is a formidable politician. It was very noticeable how warmly all those who came to dinner spoke of you both, which is a great tribute to your success here. And what exquisite food and wine - quite devastating to all our good intentions!

I was pleased to see the Gauguin exhibition and Vaux-le-Vicomte, both of which remind one of the strength of French culture. Who could possibly want to submerge that in a European blancmange!

Would you please thank all your staff for their kindness and care - and once again, our very warm gratitude to both of you.

Yours ever

Margaret

His Excellency Sir Ewen Fergusson, KCMG,
and Lady Fergusson.



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27 February 1989

Dear Monsieur le Directeur.

I was most grateful to you for arranging for me to visit the Gauguin exhibition while I was in Paris. To have put together such a remarkable exhibition is a unique achievement. What boldness and colour: one comes away with spirits lifted!

Thank you also for your great courtesy in coming to the Musée d'Orsay for my visit and for making it possible for me to enjoy the pictures in such style.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Monsieur Olivier Chevrillon



Rice ✓

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 February 1989

Dear Madame et Monsieur de Vogüé

I cannot find words to thank you enough for your very kind hospitality last weekend. The Chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte is a formidable reminder of the power and glory that France already enjoyed in the seventeenth century. Your work in preserving it for future generations deserves the highest praise. I am most grateful to you for taking the trouble to explain the Chateau's history so fully. You were particularly kind indeed to have us to lunch as well - and what a lovely and cheerful family occasion it was! It is the fate of Prime Ministers not to have many free Sundays. I cannot remember when I have enjoyed one so much, and I shall always be grateful to you.

I hope very much that you will let me know, through Ewen, when you come to Britain so that we may have you both to No.10 or Chequers. Meanwhile Denis joins me in sending our warm good wishes to you and all your family - together with our gratitude to your staff.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Comte et Comtesse Patrice de Vogüé



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 February 1989

Dear Madame la Directrice,

May I thank you most warmly for your kindness in showing us round the Gauguin exhibition this morning. It made all the difference to understanding the paintings to be able to draw upon your knowledge. The exhibition is remarkable and I shall forever be glad to have had the opportunity to see so much of Gauguin's best work gathered together. Thank you also for presenting me with the catalogue which will help keep fresh the memory of these unique paintings.

Would you also please convey my gratitude to all the members of the museum's staff who helped to make my visit possible.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Madame Françoise Cachin.