



Britische Botschaft
Presseabteilung
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DATE... 28.4.89

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FROM: David Bell

TO: Mr Terry Perks, Press Office FAXNO:

Downing Street

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO DEIDESHEIM: 30 APRIL
DEUTSCH-ENGLISCHE GESELLSCHAFT (BRITISH-GERMAN SOCIETY)

The Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft (DEG) celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. It was founded a month before the birth of the Federal Republic and has grown into a nation-wide organisation. It organises lecture tours and speaking engagements for prominent British and German speakers and since 1950 has been responsible for the Königswinter Conferences. The 40th such conference will take place in Cambridge in 1990 and is likely to be the venue for the next Anglo-German Summit (this was agreed at the Frankfurt Summit but not announced formally).

2. The first national German television channel (ARD) are making a programme to be broadcast in June to mark the 40th anniversary of the DEG. They have already obtained contributions from the Federal President and other leading politicians. They have asked whether they might put a single question to the Prime Minister during her visit to Deidesheim. The reply need not last more than 30 seconds. The proposal is that the question be put while the Prime Minister is in the Old Town Hall for the Golden Book signing ceremony. The TV facility there is pooled (at present 1 British, 1 German). We could therefore easily arrange that no other questions are asked at that stage.

3. Without giving ARD any encouragement that this might happen, we undertook to put the proposal to you. Grateful if you could give it favourable consideration. The above background notes provide more than enough material for a couple of sentences of congratulations to the DEG.

27/4



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DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF *A* FILE LEADER

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

The Federal Republic and the Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft have grown alongside each other; and each has achieved remarkable success, which they both celebrate in their 40th anniversary year. The new relationship between Britain and Germany which has been built up over these four decades has benefited greatly from the work of the Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft in bringing people from both countries together and helping them to understand each other's point of view. I visited Goethe's house in Frankfurt a few weeks ago and recall his admonition: Zwischen uns sei Wahrheit. The Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft has ensured that there is truth between us and that is a very solid foundation for our relations.

I send you every good wish for your future work: it will remain invaluable.

Margaret Thatcher

April 1989