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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 November 1989

See steps.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, STRASBOURG

Thank you for your letter about the travel arrangements for Strasbourg. I agree with what is proposed, although I am rather reluctant not to have aircraft on the ground in Strasbourg. Could we be assured that one will be available at very short notice should a need arise. It need not necessarily be a BAe 146.

Yours sincerely,
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Charles Powell'.

Charles Powell

Stephen Wall Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 November 1989

Jean Charles.

European Council, Strasbourg

The Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary will travel to Strasbourg in a BAe 146 of The Queen's Flight. The aircraft will depart RAF Northolt on Thursday 7 December. ETD 1920 hrs local will give an arrival time of 2150 hrs in Strasbourg.

We had originally suggested a standby time to depart Strasbourg on Saturday at 1500 hrs local. The Embassy in Paris have heard from the Quai d'Orsay that there is a possibility of the meeting continuing after lunch. In view of this, and the fact that RAF Northolt closes each evening at 2000 hrs, we propose that the aircraft should come back to London Heathrow (Southside).

The Queen's Flight have told us that it is their intention to bring the aircraft back to the UK immediately after leaving the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and party in Strasbourg. It would only return to Strasbourg at 1330 hrs on Saturday 9 December, ready to take off at the standby departure time of 1500 hrs. Even if the meeting runs on, the crew duty time does not expire until 2300 hrs.

I should be grateful to know if these plans are all right.

Jans
Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 December 1989

Dear Charles,

EDP
1/11

European Council, Strasbourg

In your letter of 25 November, you agreed to the proposed travel arrangements for Strasbourg but asked for some assurance that an aircraft would be available at very short notice, should the need arise.

The Queen's Flight have confirmed that they are able to provide a standby commitment during the period of the Strasbourg visit. As far as time-scales are concerned, an HS 146 should be able to position at Strasbourg in approximately three hours.

Jam,
Peter Wall

(J S Wall)

Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



Plb LB

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LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 December 1989

Dear Squadron Leader Laurie,

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you very much for the excellent flight to and from Strasbourg. She is most grateful to all the members of the crew. I can see that the BAe 146 is growing on her!

May I add the thanks of all the other members of the No. 10 party.

Yours sincerely
Charles Powell

CHARLES POWELL

Squadron Leader G. H. Laurie, R.A.F.

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