

PRIME MINISTER

cc: Amanda Ponsonby

FRENCH AMBASSADOR

You told the French Ambassador at the Diplomatic Reception at the Palace last November that you would like to take up his offer to host a dinner for 8 - 10 of the top French businessmen. It was suggested that a Sunday evening might be a good time.

The Ambassador has now come back to me to say that he would very much like to move ahead with this. To ensure that he gets the top French businessmen, he would need to give a fair amount of notice. He wonders if we are in a position to offer him a date.

I can discuss this with Amanda, but it would be helpful if you could just confirm that you would be willing to do this on a Sunday evening in say three or four months time. Although very reluctant to cut further into your time, I think it would be a good idea for you to go to the French Embassy. You have not been since the State Visit in 1985.

CDT

Yes

CHARLES POWELL

19 JANUARY 1990

c:\wpdocs\foreign\french.mrm

MRS. PONSONBY

FRENCH AMBASSADOR

Please see the attached note. Could you possibly identify a Sunday night some months hence when the Prime Minister might attend a dinner at the French Embassy. This has been hanging over us for nearly three years now and we really ought to do it.

CAP

CHARLES POWELL

21 January 1990

PRIME MINISTER

Further to Charles Powell's minute about you dining with the French Ambassador, I have been looking at possible dates. On Sunday 11 March you are looking in, at Lady Henderson's request, to a Reception for British Fashion Week at Lancaster House. As you will have already cut into the evening I wondered if you would be prepared to use that date to go on to dine at the French Embassy. If we leave it much later we run into a very busy speech period when you will want all the free time you can get at weekends.

Agree to dine with the French Ambassador on Sunday 11 March?

Amanda

(AMANDA PONSONBY)

23 January 1990

diary\french.dca

Yes



10 DOWNING STREET

~~Charles~~

dk ✓
en

The French
Ambassador rang
me to confirm
he was happy
with Sunday 11
March. He will
send you a
list of possible
guests.

AP

25/1/90

29th January 1990

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE

LONDRES

List of possible guests to be contacted, if their names are agreed, to arrive at a total of around nine (or thirteen if the Prime Minister prefers) to meet the Prime Minister (and Mr Powell) at dinner on Sunday March 11th with the French Ambassador at 11 Kensington Palace Garden.

Sir James GOLDSMITH
Mr Michel DAVID-WEILL
M. Renaud DE LA GENIERE
M. Jean-Yves HABERER
M. Edouard DE RIBES
M. Charles de CROISSET

Chairman LAZARD
Chairman SUEZ
" CREDIT LYONNAIS
" Banque RIVAUD
Dir. Gen. CCF

M. François PERIGOT
M. Ernest Antoine SEILLIERE

Chairman CNPF
Vice-Chairman CNPF

M. André BENARD

Chairman French Branch
Eurotunnel

M. Jacques FOURNIER
M. Bernard ATTALI
M. Jean PIERSON

Chairman SNCF
" AIR FRANCE
" Airbus Industrie

M. Serge TCHURUK
M. Jean-René FOURTOU
M. Jean-Louis BEFFA
M. Jean GANDOIS
M. Antoine RIBOUD
M. Jacques CALVET
M. Bernard VERNIER-PALLEZ

" TOTAL
" RHONE-POULENC
" St GOBAIN
" PECHINEY
" BSN
" PEUGEOT
Former Chairman RENAULT
and former Ambassador to
the U.S.A.

M. Claude BEBEAR
M. Jean PEYRELEVADE
M. Michel ALBERT

Chairman AXA
" UAP
" AGF

M. Bernard ARNAULT
M. Lindsay OWEN-JONES
M. François DALLE
M. Jean-Luc LAGARDERE
M. Yves SABOURET
M. Edouard de ROYERE

" LVMH
Chairman L'OREAL (or
Former Chairman)
Chairman MATRA
" HACHETTE
Chairman L'AIR LIQUIDE

M. Jerome MONOD
M. Jean-Pierre DESGEORGES
M. Jean-Paul PARAYRE
M. Alain GOMEZ
M. Bertrand COLLOMB
M. Vincent BOLLORE

M. Alain MERIEUX

M. Francis MAIRE

M. Yves CANNAC

" LYONNAISE DES EAUX
" ASLTHOM
" DUMEZ
" THOMSON
" LAFARGE-COPPEE
" BOLLORE-
TECHNOLOGIES

Chairman Institut MERIEUX
(Rhône-Poulenc Subsidiary)

Chairman USINOR

Chairman INSTITUT DE
L'ENTREPRISE (Just appointed)

N.B. The only person I have already contacted in the above list
is André BENARD who would be very pleased to come.



FILE

KK

c/Foreign/Nanteuil

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 January 1990

Thank you very much for your letter and for sending me the list of guests you have in mind to invite. My inclination would be to go for a total of 16. I think any of the names on your list would be splendid. I would only point out that the Prime Minister did meet M. Seilliere and M. Monod fairly recently at a dinner which Ewen Fergusson gave in Paris. In the interests of justice it might be better to put them relatively low in the order of priority.

(C. D. POWELL)

His Excellency Vicomte Luc de La Barre de Nanteuil

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AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
LONDRES

L'AMBASSADEUR

29 January 1990

Dear Charles,

Could you let me know as soon as possible whether the names on the enclosed list are acceptable, and whether Mrs. Thatcher would have certain preferences within or without the list.

We might be -The Prime Minister, You and I- either 12 or 16 in toto. Would you be kind enough to ask her which number she would prefer.

I met Denis Thatcher at dinner last week and invited him of course but he said he could not come because he would be in the States.

Yours ever

Luc

Mr. Charles Powell
10 Downing street
London SW1A 2AA