

PRIME MINISTER

ACADEMIC SESSION ON GERMANY

The attached telegram has the good news that Professor Gordon Craig would be prepared to come over from California for a discussion over dinner about Germany. We would of course have to offer to pay his fare and a couple of nights accommodation. If you agree, I will now try to fix a date for this meeting.

The telegram also reports that William Shirer is now too old and infirm to travel. It is suggested that we might instead invite Professor Fritz Stern who is apparently regarded, with Craig, as the foremost US academic expert on Germany. Would you like to try him too? The two of them would make a powerful combination with three or four of the best British experts.

CDP

CDP

17 February 1990

jd c:academic

Yes - good news
ms

We could have the 'session' at
Chequers and then they could both
stay at Chequers for a couple of nights
ms

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PRIME MINISTER'S CONFERENCE ON GERMANY

1. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO PROFESSOR GORDON CRAIG (EMERITUS OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY), WHO HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ATTEND THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONFERENCE. HE IS LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE FROM THE LAST WEEK IN FEBRUARY THROUGH TO THE FIRST WEEK IN APRIL, AFTER WHICH HIS SCHEDULE FILLS UP.
2. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK TO WILLIAM SHIRER, BUT HIS PUBLISHERS TELL US THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN WELL FOR SOME TIME (HE IS 86) AND HAS BEEN IN AND OUT OF HOSPITAL RECENTLY. HE HAS ALSO CUT BACK ON HIS PUBLIC ACTIVITIES. IT SEEMS LIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE A TRANS-ATLANTIC ROUND TRIP.
3. A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO SHIRER IS PROFESSOR FRITZ STERN (SETH LOW PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT COLOMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK). HE IS CURRENTLY REGARDED, WITH CRAIG, AS THE FOREMOST US ACADEMIC EXPERT ON GERMANY. WE HAVE NOT CONTACTED HIM BUT COULD DO SO QUICKLY IF HIS PRESENCE WOULD BE USEFUL.

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MRS. PONSONBY

CONFERENCE ON GERMANY

The Prime Minister wants to hold a meeting for some academic experts on Germany including a couple from America. We had originally envisaged this as an evening event at No.10 over a working supper. However, the Prime Minister has now said that she would quite like to do it as a half day at Chequers, including either lunch or dinner. If at all possible, she wants to do it before the Anglo-German Summit at the end of March, although it might have to slip. Could you let me know urgently, please, what the possibilities are.

CDP

18 February 1990.

Chapter 28

We spoke.

The date we agreed was Sat 24 March.

AP
19/2

CDP



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

18 February 1990

I have seen Washington telegram No.402 about the Prime Minister's Conference on Germany. The Prime Minister would indeed be grateful if the Embassy could sound out Professor Fritz Stern. Meanwhile, we will start looking for a date, if possible before the Anglo-German Summit at the end of March.

C.D. POWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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MRS. PONSONBY

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CDP

18 February 1990.

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2:1-
MISS SLOCOCK

I ought to warn you that the Prime Minister is thinking of inviting one or two American experts on Germany over for a meeting. We would have to pay air fares and accommodation, which might come to a tidy sum. There is no explicit provision for this sort of thing in my budget, although it seems to me it could legitimately come from one of the sub-heads on it. Could you kindly explore this with the Cabinet Office.

CDP

17 February 1990

jd c:slo