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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 May 1990

UK PRESIDENCY OF THE EC JULY-DECEMBER 1992:
THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Thank you for your letter of 21 May about the site of the European Council during the next UK Presidency of the EC. While acknowledging the attractions of Edinburgh, the Prime Minister does not think that we should try and organise a European Council there in November-December: not a good time from the point of view of weather.

(C. D. POWELL)

Stephen Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Copied to members of OD(E) and SS/Scotland, Wales and Cabinet Office.



cc/c
SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

Charles Powell Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON

23 May 1990

CD
23/5

Dear Charles

UK PRESIDENCY OF THE EC JULY-DECEMBER 1992: THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

WITH COP?

Stephen Wall's letter of 21 May suggested the possibility of the European Council meeting in November or December 1992 being in Edinburgh. I can confirm that of course my Secretary of State would strongly support this, as Edinburgh is able to offer the facilities necessary for such a Conference, in surroundings which are both attractive and memorable. My Secretary of State particularly wishes to encourage the use of Edinburgh for international events such as this, recognising its status as a European capital. We would of course be happy to do anything we can to assist in the arrangements for such a Conference if it were to come to Edinburgh.

Copies go to Private Secretaries of members of OD(E) and the Welsh and Northern Ireland Secretaries and to Sonia Phippard.

Jur
J D Gallagher

J D GALLAGHER
Private Secretary

PRIME MINISTER

EUROPEAN COUNCIL 1992

We shall host a European Council during the UK Presidency in the second half of 1992. At present we have a provisional booking for The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. The Foreign Secretary wonders, however, whether you would like to consider holding the Council in Edinburgh. The meeting would actually take place in the Castle. There are good hotel and other facilities.

Is this an option which you would like to keep open and discuss with the Foreign Secretary?

Or

Would the

Prefer not to pursue it?

*Note in the latter half
(possibly Dec) of the year*

CDP

CHARLES POWELL

22 MAY 1990

mt



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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London SW1A 2AH

21 May 1990

Ira Charles,

UK Presidency of the EC July-December 1992:
The European Council

Detailed planning for our Presidency is starting and it would be useful to consider before long the best place for the European Council in late November/early December 1992.

A provisional booking has been made at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, site of the 1986 European Council. If the Prime Minister would like to hold the meeting in London, the Foreign Secretary recommends that we confirm the booking. Official entertainment could be at Lancaster House and No 10.

The Prime Minister may, however, wish to consider a site outside London. The enclosed annex sets out the logistical requirements that the host city would have to meet. Edinburgh could fit the bill. Although the new conference centre there will not be ready in time, Edinburgh Castle could stage the meeting in its Great Room and would be good for the official entertainment. The bulk of the press and back-up facilities would need to be housed separately. There are good conference facilities in the main hotels. Bute House might also be used for smaller scale entertaining, eg the Foreign Ministers' dinner. Transport links are good. The Secretary of State for Scotland has encouraged the use of Scotland for high level inter-governmental meetings. (We recall that, when you were working on one of the Prime Minister's speeches in Scotland last year, you mentioned that consideration was being given to the inclusion of a reference to staging the 1992 European Council in Scotland - although in the event no such reference was made.)

The Foreign Secretary would be happy to discuss this with the Prime Minister. There is no great rush.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of all members of OD(E) and of the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland Secretaries, and to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

*James
Joseph Wall*

(J S Wall)

Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL: REQUIREMENTS OF CONFERENCE CENTRE

- space for 600 delegates and support staff, simultaneous translation booths, etc;
- easy road access; parking facilities;
- near to an international airport or to motorways with easy access to one;
- good access to hotels (including high class ones). Hotel accommodation for press contingent of 2000+;
- press facilities nearby for regular briefing;
- centre should be reserved for European Council use, not open to public;
- local police force with the experience to cope with security considerations;
- perimeter of centre capable of being easily secured and guarded;
- facilities and accommodation for protection officers.

