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ECL

cc Sir P.C.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 April 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you warmly for your letter of 11 April about the Economic and Cultural Union between Bristol and Oporto.

It was most thoughtful of you to let us have this account just before the Prime Minister's visit to Portugal. As you probably know she will be visiting Oporto and making a speech there. We may well try to draw on some of the material in your letter.

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your good wishes and congratulations.

R W Wall Esq

*GR
Do you have
The Wallis letter
please to the right
useful for
thank you
Crown*

*With
AFC*

AFC

WJ



John Cross
The Council House, Bristol

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, P.C., M.P.,
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON. W1

RWW/PJW

11th April, 1984

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Dear Prime Minister,

In view of your imminent visit to Portugal and to the City of Oporto, I thought it might be useful to write to you about the Economic and Cultural Union which has been ratified today in Bristol by the Lord Mayor of Bristol and the Presidente de Camera of Oporto. The Presidente is Senor Antonio Vallada and as he is almost certain to mention his visit to Bristol and today's ceremony, I thought it might be useful to send you some information about the links between Bristol and Oporto.

The idea of an economic union was originally proposed by Mr. Ian Murray, lately H.M. Consul in Oporto and now on your Downing Street staff. The basic idea is to promote trade and industry links between the new high technological industries around Bristol and similar investment areas in Northern Portugal. The whole thing is based on the long established links between both cities in the port wine trade.

In addition I understand you will be meeting Mr. Robin Reid, Managing Director of Crofts in Oporto and Chairman of the Oporto Commercial Association. He is an Englishman domiciled in Portugal who works very hard on the trade links between the two countries and between our two cities.

I attach for the use of your staff the following notes:-

1. Bristol-Oporto Historic Associations and Background
2. Text of the Declaration of the Agreement between the two cities.

Finally, all of us here in Bristol send you good wishes for a successful visit to Portugal and our congratulations on the very effective television interview which you gave on Monday of this week.

All best wishes.

Sincerely
R. W. Wall.

R. W. Wall

Leader

Bristol City Council

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BRISTOL-OPORTO

Bristol-Oporto historic associations and background

Bristol's trade links with Oporto date back to well before the fifteenth century when merchants of the city imported wine from Portugal and, in particular, from the Douro region of Northern Portugal. The wine trade between the two cities created a bond of friendship which has endured through the centuries to the present day.

This friendship has been strengthened in the last two years by visits to Oporto by a delegation from the City led by the Lord Mayor and a trade mission organised by the Bristol Chamber of Commerce Industry and Shipping.

Mutual co-operation agreements have been signed between the Bristol Chamber of Commerce and commercial associations in Oporto and the British Portuguese Chamber of Commerce, which have led to the exchange of information between the respective parties to the advantage of members of the organisations concerned.

The trade mission in September 1982 resulted in export orders being obtained and the identification of further opportunities for trade between the two cities and the regions of which they are the focal points.

Portugal's entry into the Common Market in 1985 will afford a major opportunity for the two cities to obtain new export markets and it is essential that both cities should be in a position to take full advantage of the potential market which will result.

The friendship between the two cities has also encouraged Northern Portugal to choose Bristol as the venue for its first overseas trade and cultural promotion coinciding with the inauguration of the Trade and Cultural Union.

The Northern Portuguese Week offers an excellent opportunity for the cities of Bristol and Oporto formally to recognise their existing links as a basis for the development of trade, commercial and cultural ties in the future.

Given the potential of the Portuguese market, with their imminent entry into the E.E.C., it would appear appropriate for Bristol, having regard to its links with Oporto, to act as the focal point for the South West in assisting firms wishing to seek new export markets in Northern Portugal. Oporto would also reciprocate with arrangements for firms in Northern Portugal seeking new trade in the South West.

The City Council is lending its support to the initiative of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the commercial associations of Oporto with the establishment of a Trade and Cultural Union between Bristol and Oporto.



BRISTOL-OPORTO

Text of Declaration

"Being mindful of the trading links which have existed between the City of Bristol and the City of Oporto for over five centuries and the firm friendship which has been established between our two cities over that long period, we consider that it is now appropriate for those links to be recognised formally and for them to be taken as the foundation upon which further development of trade, commerce and cultural activities may be built.

On behalf of the citizens of our two ancient cities, we therefore assent to the inauguration of a TRADE AND CULTURAL UNION between Bristol and Oporto and resolve in establishing this Treaty of Friendship to undertake everything within our power to further the links of friendship and the benefits of co-operation between our two cities".

Handwritten notes:
 Arrived city yesterday - relations in Bristol - can't claim some
 Area of great independence - keen on investment
 February - strength pro-British in technology
 pro-Portuguese

Handwritten notes:
 credit - the idea
 was fostered by a previous
 British Consul in Oporto - now a
 member of my staff

OPORTO INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION

The oldest industrial association in Portugal, the Oporto Industrial Association was founded 135 years ago on 3 May 1849.

The Association was started by 185 Oporto industrialists and academics to develop national industry and train workers in new industrial methods and use of machinery.

The Oporto Industrial Association and the Oporto Commercial Association have traditionally worked closely together to develop the North of Portugal and with their Lisbon counterparts they form the National Committee for Business Associations.

With Government assistance, the OIA plan this year to start building a new Trade Exhibition Centre in Oporto.

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