



FILE

DG

a: 27

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 September, 1984

Dear Mr. Mendham.

I was glad to hear about the proposal to hold the International Small Business Congress in London in October 1986.

In common with many other national Governments, we are keen to encourage the development of a strong and viable small firms sector in this country. The 1986 International Small Business Congress should provide an excellent opportunity to focus attention on the problems and aspirations of the international small business community and to build further on progress already made.

I welcome the proposal to bring the Congress to London and would like to wish it every success.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Stan Mendham, Esq.

RW



PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister⁽³⁾

letter of support attached,
for signature if you agree.

DMB
25/9

As you may already know it is proposed to hold the 13th International Small Business Congress in London in October 1986. The Congress is an annual meeting of delegates from all over the world to discuss issues concerning small businesses and is considered to be the premier international event of its kind. Those attending include Government Ministers, academics, bankers and representatives from small firms organisations. I addressed the 10th Congress which was held in Singapore in September 1983 and shall be speaking again at this year's Congress which takes place in Amsterdam from 24-26 October.

2. An International Steering Committee consisting of representatives of small firms organisations is responsible for choosing the Congress each year. This is normally decided upon two years in advance and the Committee needs to be satisfied that the proposed host-country has (i) the support of its own Government, (ii) the financial backing to stage the event, (iii) a suitable venue and a firm date. The UK's representative on the International Steering Committee is Mr Stan Mendham of the Forum of Private Business, a small firms representative organisation. He is also a member of the UK Steering Committee for the 1986 Congress, which is chaired by Sir Charles Villiers.

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3. The Committee has asked whether Mr Mendham could take to the Amsterdam Congress next month a message of support from the UK Government for the proposed 1986 Congress. Your endorsement of this proposal, in the form of a letter to Mr Mendham, would, I believe demonstrate to the International Steering Committee HMG's support for holding the Congress in London in 1986. If you are content with this, the enclosed draft letter to go to Mr Mendham under your signature should be suitable.

4. Kensington Town Hall is a possible venue for the 1986 Congress, which is scheduled for 19-22 October. The themes on this occasion will be 'Investment' - both human resources and financial flows. NatWest have agreed to underwrite the cost of the Congress, which is to be covered by delegates' fees. I have already written to Michael Alison to see whether you will be available to perhaps address the closing session of the Congress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.T.', with a horizontal line underneath.

25 September 1984

DAVID TRIPPIER

Enc.

DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO

Stan Mendham Esq
Forum of Private Business
Ruskin Chambers
Drury Lane
Knutsford
Cheshire WA 16 6HA

I ~~am pleased~~ ^{was glad} to hear ~~that it is proposed~~ ^{about the proposal} to hold the International Small Business Congress in London in October 1986.

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