

PRIME MINISTER

C.M.

SIGNATURE OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE ACCESSION
TREATY

We have been struggling to keep open the option for you to participate in the signature of this Treaty if most other Community Heads of Government do so.

Unfortunately, there are objections from others to the dates you could manage: and you cannot get away on the dates that all of them can make (notably 12 June, which is when you have your talks and lunch for the President of Mexico).

The only date which might still prove negotiable is 13 June. It is far from ideal for you - Cabinet and Questions - but not absolutely impossible.

Agree:

(i) *(I don't think we can manage the 13th)* that we can propose 13 June as a date which you might be able to manage. (In practice, you would only consider going if it turned out that you were the only major Community Head of Government not to go).

(ii) That we discreetly encourage the tendency of one or two other Heads of Government to be represented instead by their Foreign Ministers. This would not leave you sticking out as the only one not to go. I know that Chancellor Kohl is inclining this way, and you might be able to cement an alliance with him when you meet on 18 May.

C.D.I.

8 May 1985

CHARLES POWELL



MFJ

cc: PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 April 1985

Dear Colin,

European Community: Signature of the Accession Treaty
with Spain and Portugal

Thank you for your letter of 29 April about dates for signature of the accession treaty.

As I told you on the telephone this morning, the Prime Minister would be grateful if efforts could be made to avoid 12 June which would be impossible for her. However, this should not be taken to imply that she has reached a firm decision to attend on any other date only that the option of doing so is kept open.

Yours sincerely
Charles Powell

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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DSJ



Prime Minister

There is much to be said for your participating in the signature, particularly in the case of Portugal

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 April, 1985

You could not go on 12 June because of the state visit. 10 June would be possible for

Dear Charles, you: but if we press hard for it tomorrow, we are virtually committing you to go. Can we have a word, please?

European Community: Signature of the Accession Treaty
with Spain and Portugal

Yes Mr

CJP
29/4

The Spanish and Portuguese governments are as you know anxious that the accession treaties should be signed, on the same day, in Lisbon and Madrid, and that member states should if possible be represented at head of government level.

There has been considerable argument in the Community about dates; and we have of course reserved our position as to whether the Prime Minister might be able to attend. In the Ministerial session in Luxembourg today, virtually all other member states said that they could accept signature in Lisbon and Madrid on 12 June. The Italians, Belgians and Danes said they would definitely be represented at head of government level; and the same seems likely to be true of the French and Irish.

Mr Rifkind and Sir Michael Butler made clear that 12 June would not be possible for the Prime Minister because of the Mexican State Visit. There was virtually no support, however, for the alternative date of 18 June.

There are precedents for us to be represented at Foreign Secretary level. Lord Carrington signed the accession treaty for Greece on behalf of the British Government.

There is one point of potential difficulty in relation to Spain. Since in signing the Treaty the Spaniards have to accept that Gibraltar is a territory for which we are responsible, they are stating that they will have to enter a unilateral statement annexed to the Treaty that will protect their position. We told them that any statement of this kind should be made separately (they have undertaken to reflect, though they may return to the charge). We shall keep you informed about this.

It would be very well received in Lisbon and Madrid if the Prime Minister could attend. The

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Secretary of State recognises, however, that if it is not possible to shift the date, that will not be feasible. In that event he believes that it would be understood why she was unable to do so. Messages could be sent to Soares and Felipe Gonzalez explaining that Sir Geoffrey Howe would sign on behalf of the British Government. In view of the difficulties for us over 12 June, Signor Andreotti has suggested to Mr Rifkind that the one date on which it might be possible to reach agreement as an alternative is Monday, 10 June. It is clear that we should have to press that case hard in the Foreign Affairs Council tomorrow if we wished it to stand a chance of success.

I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister wishes Sir Michael Butler to press hard for agreement on 10 June, so that she might attend the ceremonies in Lisbon and Madrid; or whether we should agree to 12 June, making clear that the Foreign Secretary would then have to sign on behalf of the United Kingdom.

*Yours ever,
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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