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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

22 November 1985

**SPANISH TELEVISION INTERVIEW BY THE PRIME MINISTER**

Thank you for your letter of 21 November conveying the Foreign Secretary's strong recommendation that the Prime Minister should give a brief interview to Spanish television to mark Spain's accession to the European Community.

BF  
The Prime Minister would be willing to do this but is simply not able to do so before Friday 13 December. There is no time at all within the next two weeks. Would you please ascertain that Spanish television can manage the date of 13 December.

(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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SAW

cc: Mr. Powell

① ● ② P

② PRIME MINISTER

SPANISH TV INTERVIEW

You have agreed to do the above and this has to be done before Friday 6 December. You are in Luxembourg on 2 and 3 December. Tim will be negotiating for you to make your statement in the House on Thursday 5 December which is already looking pretty full with Cabinet, Questions, MPs etc. This leaves Wednesday 4 December, the day you have The Queen to dinner.

Assuming you do not have to make your statement in the House that afternoon and if I arrange a hair appointment first thing (you will of course be having another one in the evening before The Queen's dinner) would you be prepared to do this interview that morning? They have asked for 15 minutes but I will, as usual, have to allocate 1 hour.

Agree to Spanish TV interview from 1130 - 1230 on Wednesday 4 December?

CR.

Caroline Ryder  
22 November 1985

BEMBEA



10 DOWNING STREET

Caroline,

The PM has  
now agreed to this.

Can we find a  
time in early December  
please?

C DP.

cc of  
BI  
✓  
①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 November 1985

*M. S. M.*

Dear Charles,

*Prime Minister  
we discussed this at a diary  
meeting, & you asked what other  
Heads of Government were doing. Most  
will give the interview. Agree to  
do so?  
CDP*

Spanish TV Interview by the Prime Minister

Spanish television have asked to interview the Prime Minister for a series which they are preparing to mark Spanish accession to the EC. They have asked all European Community Heads of Government to appear. So far the French, Italians, Dutch, Greeks and Danes have agreed. The Germans have yet to make up their mind, but seem likely to concur.

*[Germans  
have not  
agreed]*

The Spanish Government hope very much that the Prime Minister will take part. The Private Secretary to the Spanish Prime Minister told HM Ambassador in Madrid that Felipe Gonzalez very much hoped that the Prime Minister would agree to the request. Since then, the Spanish Foreign Minister has written to the Secretary of State to ask him to support it.

Time is short. The Spaniards want to finalise their programme by the end of the first week in December. Were they to interview the Prime Minister, they would presumably want to do so within the next two weeks. They have asked for an interview lasting about 15 minutes.

The Foreign Secretary hopes that, if her diary permits, the Prime Minister could agree. It would be unfortunate if the Prime Minister were the only Head of Government not to appear. More important, the interview would fit in well with our general strategy of presenting as constructive and welcoming an attitude to Spanish accession as possible. We have had to take hard stances in various parts of the negotiations on Spanish accession. Without wanting to rewrite history, it would be useful to remind Spanish public opinion that we were amongst the first and strongest supporters of Spanish accession. We would ask the Spaniards to give us their questions in advance. The proposed interviewer is widely known, serious and respected.

I would be grateful if you could let me know whether the Prime Minister is prepared to agree to the Spanish request.

*Yours ever,  
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street