



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 April 1987

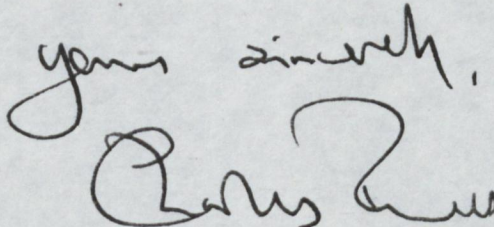
Dear Lynn.

QUADRIPARTITE AND TRIPARTITE WESTERN CO-ORDINATION

The Prime Minister has now considered the Foreign Secretary's points about Quadripartite and Tripartite co-ordination with our closest allies, as set out in Tony Galsworthy's letter of 9 April. While she recognises the possible pitfalls in holding restricted meetings of this sort, particularly at Head of Government level, her general reaction is that the special Berlin responsibilities of the four provide a perfectly reasonable basis, and adequate cover, for occasional meetings.

The Prime Minister would like to pursue the possibility of a Quadripartite Meeting at Head of Government level this year, while President Reagan is in Europe for the Economic Summit (although not actually in Venice, to save Italian susceptibilities). The 750th Anniversary of Berlin does of course provide a perfectly valid reason. If there is to be any prospect of such a meeting, we shall need to move fast before the President's programme is finalised. What we need is a rapid approach in Washington. This might either be by Sir A. Acland to Frank Carlucci, or by a message from the Prime Minister on the direct line. I see some advantage in an informal approach first and, unless the Foreign Secretary sees objection, would be grateful if appropriate instructions could be sent to Sir Antony Acland. These might be to the effect that the Prime Minister thinks that it would be useful to have a meeting of the Berlin Four at Head of Government level while the President is in Europe. She has reason to believe that President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl would support such a meeting if approached, but she would like the President's informal reaction before making any proposal. The meeting would be presented as being linked to the 750th Anniversary of Berlin, but would in practice offer an excellent opportunity for joint consideration by the four main allied governments of major issues of East/West relations and arms control. The meeting could take place at an appropriate moment during the President's visit, depending on the state of his programme (Bonn or Paris might be possibilities) but not during the Economic Summit itself. Sir Antony should stress that this is only a very private approach at this stage, to ascertain the President's reaction and the feasibility of a meeting.

Separately the Prime Minister wishes to pursue the idea of a tripartite breakfast with President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl at the European Council in June. I suggest that she and the Foreign Secretary should discuss this at their next bilateral.

Yours sincerely,


(C.D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Please keep in file
Mr Ratford
Mr Bush, WED
Mr Fowler, NAD
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FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR
QUADRIpartite MEETINGS

1. PLEASE SPEAK TO CARLUCCI ON A PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING.
2. THE PRIME MINISTER BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A MEETING OF THE BERLIN 4 AT HEAD OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL WHILE PRESIDENT REAGAN IS IN EUROPE FOR THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT. SHE HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT MITTERRAND AND CHANCELLOR KOHL WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A MEETING IF APPROACHED, BUT SHE WOULD LIKE THE PRESIDENT'S INFORMAL REACTION BEFORE MAKING ANY PROPOSAL. THE MEETING WOULD BE PRESENTED AS BEING LINKED TO THE 750TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERLIN, BUT WOULD IN PRACTICE OFFER AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR JOINT CONSIDERATION BY THE FOUR MAIN ALLIED GOVERNMENTS OF MAJOR ISSUES OF EAST/WEST RELATIONS AND ARMS CONTROL. THE MEETING COULD TAKE PLACE AT AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, DEPENDING ON THE STATE OF HIS PROGRAMME (EG IN BONN OR PARIS) BUT NOT (NOT) DURING THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT ITSELF (TO SAVE ITALIAN SUSCEPTIBILITIES).
3. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT THIS IS ONLY A VERY PRIVATE APPROACH AT THIS STAGE, TO ASCERTAIN THE PRESIDENT'S REACTION TO THESE IDEAS AND THE FEASIBILITY OF A MEETING. ACTION IS NOT (NOT) BEING TAKEN IN PARALLEL WITH MITTERRAND AND KOHL.

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PS/PUS.

MR. THOMAS.

MRS. LESLIE, PLANNING STAFF.

Secret