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NATF
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Netherland

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 December 1982

Dear Sir,

Invitations to Chancellor Kohl, Mr. Fanfani and Mr. Lubbers

During our visit to Copenhagen for the European Council last week there was some discussion of the desirability of inviting to London early next year the Federal German Chancellor, the Italian Prime Minister and the Netherlands Prime Minister. I have since consulted the Prime Minister about this and write to convey her views.

Chancellor Kohl

The Prime Minister would welcome a visit by the Federal German Chancellor in January or early February. You will recall that Chancellor Kohl suggested to the Prime Minister on 29 October that he should pay a working visit "with a minimum of supporting staff" to discuss commercial policy and the problem of protectionism. We were not able to fit such a visit into the Prime Minister's diary before Christmas but could now offer talks and lunch at Chequers on 4 February (which would be our first preference) or talks and lunch at 10 Downing Street on either 24 or 26 January. The Prime Minister would hope to discuss with Herr Kohl not just commercial policy but world economic and financial questions as well as key Community issues and international political and defence matters.

I should be grateful if you could put these possibilities to the Germans and let us know their response. If you consider that a personal letter from the Prime Minister to the Chancellor conveying this invitation would be useful, could you kindly let me have a draft.

Mr. Fanfani

It is our turn to host the next Anglo/Italian bilateral summit. As you know, we were unable to offer a summit in the latter part of this year and this upset the Italians to some extent. The Prime Minister would like to take the opportunity of the change of administration in Italy to issue an early invitation to Mr. Fanfani to visit London. The best day for the summit would be Wednesday 2 March. Again, if you believe a written invitation desirable, perhaps you would kindly supply a draft.

/ Mr. Lubbers

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Mr. Lubbers

Roger Bone's letter of 1 December refers. The Prime Minister did not convey an invitation to Mr. Lubbers during the European Council in Copenhagen, but would be glad to offer talks followed by lunch on either 25 February or 4 March. Again, could you either put these dates to the Dutch or supply a draft letter from the Prime Minister to Mr. Lubbers.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Kerr (H.M. Treasury), John Rhodes (Department of Trade), Robert Lowson (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

John Colson.

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.