

CONFIDENTIAL



bc. Sir P. Cradock
Mrs. Goodchild

SUBJECT FILED ON:

BELGIUM: Visit of Belgian PM
June 79

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 November, 1984.

Possible invitations to the Belgian and Netherlands
Prime Ministers

Thank you for your letter of 12 November suggesting that the Prime Minister should invite Mr. Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, and Mr. Lubbers, the Netherlands Prime Minister, for bilateral talks.

The Prime Minister agrees to invite both of them for talks in the early part of next year. In both cases she would like the occasions to be very informal. She does not want large delegations or lengthy meetings. The idea would be for each of them to fly in to the UK in the morning, come to Chequers for an hour's discussion before lunch, followed by a working lunch.

The two dates which the Prime Minister could manage are Saturday, 26 January and Saturday, 2 March. I should be grateful if invitations could be extended for these dates. I assume from your letter that Mr. Lubbers would prefer the earlier one. There is no possibility, I am afraid, of the Prime Minister seeing Mr. Lubbers before 21 January.

Please ensure that the nature of the invitation is clearly understood at the time that it is issued.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

for Jan: 26
for March 2d

MRS. RYDER

SUBJECT FIXED ON:

BELGIUM: Visit of Belgian PM
June 79

MEETING WITH THE BELGIAN AND DUTCH PRIME MINISTERS

You will see from the attached that the Prime Minister has agreed to invite both Mr. Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, and Mr. Lubbers, the Dutch Prime Minister, separately to working lunches at Chequers in late January or February (or at a pinch in March). What is envisaged in each case is a small working occasion: about an hour of talks before a working lunch and then off. It could be either a Saturday or a Sunday (or, if you can fix it, a Friday or a Monday). Would it be possible to let me have some dates which I could put to the Foreign Office please?

CJP

Charles Powell

18 November 1984

SUBJECT FILED ON:

BELGIUM: Visit of Belgian PM
June 79

PRIME MINISTER

Meetings with Belgian and Dutch Prime Ministers

You earlier agreed in principle to invite M. Martens for lunch and a talk, possibly at Chequers, but wanted to defer a decision on timing.

Mr. Lubbers has now entered the lists and wants to invite you to the Hague for talks and a meal. Alternatively he would come here.

In both cases, the timing would be January or February.

The Foreign Secretary recommends that you agree to both, but thinks it would be wounding to Martens if you were to agree to Lubbers but not to him.

There is scope for seeking alliances with the smaller Community member states on a number of important issues coming up. Some contact with Martens is really overdue.

Agree:

to invite Martens to a working lunch at Chequers in late January/early February? *Yes not*

to go to the Hague to see Lubbers? - *Make him to Chequers 65*

or to invite him also for a working lunch early in the New Year?

CDP

not

14 November, 1984.

cc PE



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

SUBJECT FILED ON:

BELGIUM: Visit of Belgian PM

12 November 1984

June 79

Dear Charles.

Possible Invitations to Belgian and Netherlands Prime Ministers

In your letter of 17 October you said that the Prime Minister was ready in principle to invite Mr Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, but preferred to wait a while before issuing an invitation. We have now heard that, while the likely date of the next Belgian general election is towards the end of 1985, it might be brought forward as early as May. It would therefore be preferable if a visit could take place early in the New Year.

There is also reason to consider a further meeting with Mr Lubbers, the Netherlands Prime Minister. In two recent meetings with the retiring UK Ambassador, Sir Philip Mansfield, Mr Lubbers has expressed his wish to have further talks with the Prime Minister. (He was last over here for a working breakfast on 2 March, in the run-up to the Brussels European Council.) We and the Dutch continue to work closely together on budget discipline, and on our approach to Integrated Mediterranean Programmes. We shall wish to impress on them the need for stringent price controls at next March's annual agricultural price fixing, and to persuade Mr Lubbers that our ideas for the future of the Community reflect a real interest in increasing and strengthening cooperation. There is also scope for discussion of other international issues.

Mr Lubbers has suggested the first half of January. (The Dutch Parliament is in recess from about 21 December to 21 January.) He has said that he would be happy to invite the Prime Minister to The Hague for a session of talks plus a working meal, or to come to London. The Foreign Secretary thinks that this, like a visit by Mr Martens, would be useful; and that it is really immaterial which meeting takes place first, provided that an invitation to Mr Martens is extended before or at the same time as a meeting is arranged with Mr Lubbers. It would very much please the Dutch if the Prime

/Minister

CONFIDENTIAL



Minister were able on this occasion to take up the invitation to go to The Hague, since it is their turn to be hosts.

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL