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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
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FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

J O Kerr Esq CMG
FCO

M Keefe
Produce letter to No 10
by 13/4/88
Dear John, etc

Don 11/4
AC
1. cc. *Mrs Paskell*
Mr Dain.
2. *Mr Wall.*

29 March 1988

I think we should give
this a run, tho' I don't fancy
its chances: mid Sept/early Oct
is a busy time for No 10.

J.O.K. 9/iv.

INVITATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO ADDRESS THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR AT THE COLLEGE OF EUROPE, BRUGES

- / 1. I enclose a copy of a letter from the Rector of the College of Europe at Bruges to the Prime Minister inviting her to be the guest of honour and speaker at the opening ceremony of the academic year this September. I also enclose the signed copy for the Prime Minister which Professor Lukaszewski asked me to forward. I would be most grateful if you would pass this on to No 10.
- / 2. I also enclose a letter from Henry Plumb to the Prime Minister commending acceptance of the invitation. We have received this letter from the Plumb office. I would be grateful if you would pass that too to No 10.
3. No doubt you have plenty of background material on the College of Europe since the FCO makes a modest (!) contribution to it annually. The latest state of play on its finances and on ~~the~~ the British representation on the staff and amongst the students is set out in John de Fonblanque's record of an earlier meeting with Professor Lukaszewski of 17 March. (copied to Keefe, ECD(I)).
4. You will see that Professor Lukaszewski's letter refers to previous Heads of State and Government who have addressed the academic opening ceremony at the College. The most recent to do so was President Mitterrand who visited Bruges last autumn. Previous speakers include President Soares of Portugal, Prime Minister Gonzalez of Spain and Chancellor Kreisky of Austria. I went myself last year to the session addressed by President Mitterrand. In addition to the students and the staff there was a large audience consisting of local notables and the Brussels Diplomatic Corps (bilateral, Community and NATO). You will also see that, while the College would prefer to hold the session on 19 September, they are quite prepared to decouple the opening ceremony from the actual start of the academic year if this would make it possible for the Prime Minister to accept.

MWB 300/89



5. You will no doubt wish to offer some advice to No 10. My own view is that, if the Prime Minister is minded to make a speech with a European theme this is as good a platform as any for doing so; and nowhere outside the United Kingdom is easier to handle logistically than Bruges. I should perhaps add that Professor Lukaszewski said he thought it would be extremely welcome if the Prime Minister were to take an opportunity to spell out her own vision of the future development of Europe rather than leaving the field clear to others who chose to propagate the myth that her attitude was an entirely negative one.

6. Professor Lukaszewski put in a particular plea to have a reply by the end of April since, if the response is negative, he will need to look for an alternative speaker. He also asked that we maintain strict confidentiality about the invitation since other speakers did not appreciate finding out that they were only a second choice.

Xm lue
David

D H A Hannay

cc: Sir Peter Petrie Bt CMG - Embassy, Brussels
D Dain Esq - WED, FCO