



10 DOWNING STREET

Mr. W. Chamberlain

I'm quite
clear in my mind
— are you clear
in yours?

Es. Not on.

Once she is there
for long — — — — —
will stay on for the
moment.

4/11

W
xi

Date free
but — — — — —

PRIME MINISTER

The attached minute from Robert asks you to reconsider your refusal to attend the Royal College of Music's Centenary on 28 February 1982. I have had a word with Clive and he is adamant that you should not accept this. But before I reply to Robert, Clive thought you should be aware of the new approach.

E.S.

We can surely

find 1/2 hr

mtg.

6 November 1981

GR
Ean

MISS STEPHENS

Royal College of Music

You will remember our exchange of minutes about the Royal College of Music Centenary, and the wish of the College that the Prime Minister should be present on 28th February 1982 for a re-enactment of the meeting to establish the College which took place in 1882. You wrote to Sir David Willcocks in August to convey the Prime Minister's reluctant refusal of the invitation.

2. The College is proposing to use the occasion to launch an appeal for funds. Mr. Leopold de Rothschild has agreed to be the Chairman of the Appeal. He has rung to ask whether there is any possibility of the Prime Minister being willing to change her mind. He entirely understands, of course, that the Prime Minister would not have time to attend the Thanksgiving Service in the afternoon, or to stay for the Reception in St. James's Palace after the ceremony (though she would of course be welcome if she could stay for a short time); she would need to be at St. James's Palace for only half an hour from 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm. The Prince of Wales will preside, impersonating his great-great-grandfather; and the Queen Mother will also be there.

3. I should be grateful if you could let me know whether the Prime Minister would be prepared to find half an hour for this at 5.30 pm on 28th February; or whether she would wish me regretfully to repeat her reluctant refusal.

RA

Robert Armstrong

4th November 1981