

① Mrs. Ryder ^{cc.} ^{all noted.}
We have already spoken
- but you should see this
for info.

PRIME MINISTER

European Elections

② Pl. return to Amanda. ^{See 29/2}

1. It had originally been proposed that the launch of our Manifesto, and therefore the first press conference at Central Office, should be held on Friday, 18th May. I was always a little concerned about this because Saturday is such a poor media day. The Chairman has now decided to hold the launch and press conference on the following Monday, 21st May.

2. This is how your diary for that day looks at present:-

0830	Hair
1000	Media
1200	Keep free for speech
Lunch	Netherlands-British Chamber of Commerce and presentation of Anglo/Dutch industry awards
1830-2000	Impact 80s reception

3. I have talked to Caroline about how it might look if you agree to the press conference and a short speech ^{later} to the European candidates. It would look as follows:-

0800 or 0830	Hair
0930 or 1000	Depart for Central Office
0945 or 1015	Briefing for press conference
1030 or 1100	Press conference
1130 or 1200	Return to No. 10
1200	Keep free for speech
Lunch	Netherlands-British Chamber of Commerce and presentation of Anglo/Dutch industry awards
Sometime afternoon 1600?	Address European candidates probably ^{at} CCO
1830-2000	

4. Although you are speaking to the European candidates at dinner next week, this is months before the European elections. You have agreed in principle to address them at the launch of the campaign subject to diary.

5. And I have already made it clear that . . . doing this speech on the same day as the press conference would mean that you would give an "off the cuff" short speech and not a major "on the record" speech. (There is merit in doing this apart from the normal reasons. Even now, with a number of Westminster contacts, the European MEPs drift off on their own. This is much more likely to happen after the elections when their Westminster links will be very badly eroded. We will have to use every means possible before and after the elections to try and keep them in line as far as possible.)

The pity about Monday, 21st May is, of course, that it does clash with your Netherlands-British Chamber of Commerce lunch.

6. Bearing all this in mind, do you agree
- (a) the Manifesto launch and press conference on Monday 21st May?
 - (b) addressing the European candidates briefly later in the day?

Stephen

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE
28th February 1984

Yes no