

Spain



10 DOWNING STREET

9th November 1984

Dear Scott

Senor Fraga

The Prime Minister talked to me this morning about Senor Fraga. She was aware that he had been given the impression that he might be able to see the Prime Minister at the end of this month, when he visited London. However, as you know, her feeling has been that, in the context of the relationship between the Alianza Popular and the EDG in the European Parliament, it would be right to move in stages; and that it would probably be better for the Chairman to see Senor Fraga at first, with the prospect of a later meeting with the Prime Minister.

Having said this, the Prime Minister is conscious that Senor Fraga has a separate standing, as Leader of the Opposition in Spain. Moreover, she did see Senor Gonzales when he was Opposition Leader in Spain. The Prime Minister is therefore reluctant to appear to refuse to see Senor Fraga for fear that it would cause offence.

The following questions arise:-

1. Given the communications that have taken place so far between the Conservative Party and the Alianza Popular, is there a danger that Senor Fraga will take offence if he does not see the Prime Minister soon?
2. If so, ought the Prime Minister to see him soon, and should this be done through Party or Foreign Office channels? (Senor Gonzales' visit as Opposition Leader was arranged through the Foreign Office).
3. We would then have to consider dates, as I think the dates which Senor Fraga has in mind are unlikely to suite the Prime Minister.

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4. Could we get away with arranging a meeting with Senor Fraga at some later date?

I am writing this letter and circulating it in this way to save myself endless telephone conversations!

It may be best for John Houston and you to come to a view together which I can then discuss with Charles Powell (Private Secretary responsible for Foreign Affairs) here at Number Ten, before consulting the Chairman and the Prime Minister.

*Yours
Stephen*

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