



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 October 1981

Mme Simone Veil

Thank you for your letter of 23 September, which arrived while I was in Australia at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting.

I am most grateful for your invitation to address the European Parliament, which I am pleased to accept. During the British Presidency we have made a major effort in an area to which we attach particular importance, relations between the Community institutions. This reflects our commitment to the development of the Community, for in order for it to move forward the institutions must work harmoniously together. Although the European Council is not one of the institutions established by the Treaties it is nevertheless the body from which the main political momentum must come.

I am therefore glad to be the first of its Presidents in office to give an account of the results of one of its meetings, in this case that which will have been held in London under my Chairmanship. I also accept with pleasure the kind invitation to lunch with you and the enlarged Bureau.

I would propose to come on Wednesday, 16 December for the latter part of the morning, returning directly after lunch to London, where I have unavoidable commitments. If this day is convenient to you, we might leave it to our officials to arrange the details.

Madame Simone Veil

*Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher*