



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

14 May 1985

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPANISH ARMADA

The Prime Minister has seen the Minister for the Arts' minute of 8 May about the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Spanish Armada.

The Prime Minister thinks this is a very delicate matter vis-à-vis the Spaniards and would like to be absolutely sure that they are agreeable to what is proposed. She sees some risk that their response to Dr. Cossons' approach is simply politeness. She would therefore prefer the matter to be discussed either with the Spanish Ambassador here by the Foreign Office or by our Ambassador in Madrid with the Spanish Government before she writes to Senor Gonzalez. I should be grateful if this could be put in hand.

I stress that the Prime Minister is perfectly willing to take a hand in sponsoring the exhibition but wants to be absolutely sure of Spanish reactions in advance.

I am copying this letter to Colin Budd (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Charles Powell

Paul Thomas, Esq.,  
Office of the Minister for the Arts.

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