

PRIME MINISTER

GERMANY

You said that you would like to have an evening seminar and supper with some eminent historians and others to discuss Germany and Central Europe. The names you mentioned were:

Hugh Trevor-Roper
Gordon Brook-Shepherd
George Urban
Gordon Craig

The FCO have now come up with an alternative list including:

Timothy Garton-Ash
Edwina Moreton, The Economist
Alex Pravda, St Antony's (formerly Chatham House)
Professor Gordon Smith, LSE (German politics)
Philip Windsor, LSE, Reader of Department of International Relations
Ian Davidson, Financial Times
Edward Mortimer, Financial Times
Professor John Ericson, Edinburgh University (Soviet military expert)
Gordon Craig, author, US-based (in his 70s)
Dominic Lieven, LSE
Professor Norman Stone, Oxford (East Europe)
Professor Ralph Dahrendorf (possible)
Paul Kennedy, Yale University (British national)

They also want the Foreign Secretary, William Waldegrave and Christopher Mallaby to be present. Percy Cradock would also very much like to attend.

I have several immediate comments: there is virtually no overlap between your list and theirs except for Craig (who is in his 70s, and based in the US): they have got too many journalists: and the whole thing is becoming too big.

It seems to me that you want people of some eminence and wisdom

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rather than 'experts': and you want relatively few people, so that there can be a real discussion.

One of the problems is that some of the most eminent experts are now rather elderly. Apart from Hugh Trevor-Roper and Gordon Craig, the great names are Alan Bullock, Isaiah Berlin, William Shirer (the Rise and Fall of the Third Reich). But they are well into their eighties and William Shirer lives in the United States. The great historian of medieval Germany was Geoffrey Barraclough, but he died (I think quite recently). Possibly the best history of all is by Alfred Grosser. But he is French and I don't know if he speaks English.

My own selection would therefore be rather different from that of the FCO, as well as smaller. I would suggest the following eight:

- ✓ Alec Douglas Home
- ✓ Hugh Trevor-Roper
- Alan Bullock
- ✓ Gordon Craig (if he would come from the US)
- Isaiah Berlin
- ✓ Hartley Shawcross
- ✓ Norman Stone
- ✓ Timothy Garton-Ash
- Professor Gordon Smith (I don't know him).

with you and the Foreign Secretary making ten. That would mean leaving out William Waldegrave, Percy Cradock and Christopher Mallaby. But the occasion is for your benefit (and Christopher presumably knows about Germany's history).

Would you like me to proceed on this basis?

CDP

Charles Powell

7 February 1990

c: Germany (MJ)

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