

From the Private Secretary

24 July 1990

Dear Mr Marsh,

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 16 July about the document published in the Independent on Sunday, and to reply. I know she will be very grateful for your book and will read it during the summer break.

The points in your letter are perfectly fair: and I can understand that, seen in black and white, some of the points of my note do not go down well in Germany. They were not, of course, supposed to be seen. One always faces a dilemma with this sort of occasion; the purpose is to produce a fair summary of discussion, as any rapporteur at a conference or seminar does. One cannot include in the note things which were not said. Equally one does not attempt to produce a verbatim record, recording every point made and attributing it to a speaker. As regards the point in the very last sentence of your letter, I would refer you to the second part of the penultimate paragraph of my note, particularly the sentence: "We were also reminded that Anglo-German indoctrinism[sic] since the fall of Bismark[sic] had been injurious to Europe as a whole and must not be allowed to revive once more."

Personally I share your admiration and affection for Germans, having some modest knowledge of the language and having lived in Germany for a little over three years in the mid-1970s.

Yours,

Charles Powell