

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Dec 20  
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**From: JOHN HOLMES**  
**Date: 1 November 1996**

**PRIME MINISTER**

**VISIT BY BRUTON**

You have agreed to see Bruton on Monday 9 December, as part of Bruton's pre-European Council tour of capitals. You also agreed to give him a decent length of time, to enable Northern Ireland and Anglo-Irish issues to be covered too, but thought you should offer him a meal.

You cannot easily offer him dinner, as you are committed to Tosca that evening, but it looks as if both he and you could manage lunch (you are down for a Commons colleagues lunch at the moment). It would probably be best to have talks followed by lunch, eg starting at 1100 - we would have to shift the President of Angola to the afternoon, but that looks do-able.

Current diary extract attached.

**Content** to offer Bruton talks at 1100 followed by (working) lunch?

**JOHN HOLMES**

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