



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

05th January, 2010

Dear Boy Scout,

On behalf of the people of United Kingdom and Her Majesty The Queen I would like to offer you the best wishes for the coming year. It is beyond question that 2010 will turn out to be a marvellous year for all of us. I am writing you to inform you that, despite these good expectations, the year has started with a serious disappointment because the well-known Mr. Bean did announce his retirement.

It does need little explanation that a 'new' Mr. Bean needs to be found in order to entertain people all over the world. An important television channel in the UK already started a talent show to pick the new Mr. Bean, but in my opinion no good will come of this. None of the participants to this talent show showed any sign of humour or funniness up to date, probably because the English people have somewhat stiffened of late.

To make sure that a funny and humorous successor of Mr. Bean will be found, I chose to intervene in the matter at hand. In my opinion the Dutch people are funny and pleasant and therefore likely to deliver a successful successor to Mr. Bean. To choose the 'new' Mr. Bean, I am organizing an enjoyable weekend for your Scout Troop later this month to introduce you to the UK and to test your skills in being Mr. Beanish. Please note that you are expected to arrive at local UK headquarters (called Trappershorst) on the 23rd of January at 17:00 (local Dutch time), wearing your complete Scouts uniform. Your stay will last until the next day*. Additionally, your parents are cordially invited to join us during the first hour of our meeting, until the state banquet commences.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Mountbatten-Windsor, Prince of Wales

**** You will spend the night at UK headquarters but you need to bring your own sleeping bag and mattress due to budget cuts. Your stay at our excellent accommodation will end the next day at noon (12:00). You need to bring neither breakfast nor lunch this weekend.***