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Visit by Prince Charles to France.

Royal Family

April 1980.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
16.4.80. 30.4.80							
PREM 19/35H							

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File No
Royal family

30 April 1980

VISIT BY PRINCE CHARLES TO FRANCE

I have discussed with the Prime Minister your letter to me of 24 April about Prince Charles' visit to France in the summer. The Prime Minister has agreed that President Giscard's invitation can be accepted.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brian Norbury (Ministry of Defence).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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[Handwritten signature]



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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 April 1980

Dear Michael,

Visit by Prince Charles to France

Thank you for your letter of 16 April. The Palace tell us that The Prince of Wales has not so far paid visits to any European NATO forces, though he has been to NATO HQ in Brussels. There is, of course, no reason why he should not accept similar invitations from other NATO countries (such as the FRG), should they be proposed. In this case, as you know, the invitation came from the French. Clive Whitmore will remember the earlier discussion at the meeting of the Royal Visits Committee in early December last year, on the basis of which the present outline proposals have been worked out. There is no immediate urgency for Prince Charles' formal reply though, other things being equal, it ought to be made within the next few weeks.

I am copying this letter of Brian Norbury (Ministry of Defence).

Yours own

(P Lever)

Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
London

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24 APR 1961

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Royal Family



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 2111/3 (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

MO 25/5/4

23rd April 1980

NBPA yes

[Handwritten signature]

Mr Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 15th April.

I can confirm that my Secretary of State has no objection to the proposal for the planned visit to France by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, subject to the view of the Prime Minister.

I am copying this to Michael Alexander.

Yours sincerely
John Dawson

(J D S DAWSON)

Paul Lever Esq

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22 APR 1980

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Royal Family, JGG
ce: MoD

B/F 23.4.80

Free

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 April 1980

VISIT BY PRINCE CHARLES TO FRANCE

You asked in your letter of 15 April to Brian Norbury for confirmation that the Prime Minister would be content for Prince Charles to visit France this summer. Before taking a view, the Prime Minister would like to know which European NATO forces, if any, had been visited by the Prince of Wales.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brian Norbury (Ministry of Defence).

M.O'D.B. ALEXANDER

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

KRP

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Agree that visit should go ahead?

15 April 1980

Paul - 15/4

France is not a full member of N.A.T.O. Why would we signal honour to this Prince Charles?

Dear Brian,

Visit by Prince Charles to France

In September last year we heard from the Elysee that President Giscard had suggested that the Prince of Wales might visit some French military establishments. Prince Charles has agreed to this proposal and his Office have provisionally reserved 21 - 23 July 1980. Your officials have been consulted; they supported the proposal, but were concerned that the French nuclear forces should not figure too prominently in the programme. The Embassy in Paris have now sounded out the French informally and I understand that President Giscard has accepted our suggestion of visits to the nuclear submarine base at Brest, the Intervention Force in the Toulouse area, and the French First Army at Alsace, which is a reasonable balance between nuclear and non-nuclear installations.

visited Emperor N.A.T.O. Jones? 2/17

I should be grateful if you would now confirm that the Secretary of State for Defence is content for us to convey to the French Prince Charles's formal acceptance of the invitation. If the visit goes ahead we shall ensure that the Ministry of Defence know when the visit is to be announced.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Michael Alexander (No 10) and would be grateful to know that the Prime Minister is content as well.

Yours etc

Paul

and

(P Lever)
Private Secretary

B M Norbury Esq
PS/Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
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