

PRIME MINISTER

Your visit to Nottingham tomorrow. As things stand, BBC and ATV will film your arrival, the unveiling of the plaque in memory of Police Constable McDonald, and your address to the Cadets. They will stand by in the hope of a 90-second piece with you immediately before your departure for Birmingham at 11.15 am. I have said that you will grant this if possible. But if you decide en route that you don't wish to do it, David Boyd will stand them down. Their questions will relate to the outcome of tonight's vote on capital punishment and your reaction thereto - particularly appropriate in the context of the unveiling of the plaque to a murdered policeman. They are likely to ask when the Party's pre-election undertakings on law and order will emerge. I have checked today and I believe the Home Secretary hopes to make a public statement - though not definitive - on "short, sharp sentences" before or at your Party Conference. Nothing on this or immigration will emerge in the House before the Recess.

You may well be asked your views on the police - having just reviewed the cadets, and here I assume you would pay tribute to their devotion to duty. The Government is, of course, reviewing the operation of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

If the vote goes against capital punishment tonight, you are likely to be asked what the prospects are for a referendum on the subject, and how the Government proposes to tackle any increase in violent crime.



Henry L James

19 July 1979

PRIME MINISTER

When you visit Nottingham police on Friday you will be unveiling a plaque to a murdered policeman. The obvious coincidence is that this follows the debate on capital punishment, and you may wish, therefore, to insure your vote.

The ceremony will be filmed by both BBC and ATV. Both have asked for a separate word - inevitably on the question of law and order - when will the Government's proposals be forthcoming. I think in all the circumstances you may well wish to do this.

what question?

I have arranged that David Boyd, Chief Regional Officer of COI, will be at your service. He will be fully briefed.

out.

H.L.J.

Henry L James

18 July 1979

PRIME MINISTER

You are presenting the awards at the Birmingham Press Club on Friday. You arrive there at lunchtime by car from Nottingham. I shall be there in advance and will receive you with the Chairman of the Birmingham Press Club - the oldest such Club in the country - Mr M Sumner, who is the local representative (managerial) of the Investors' Chronicle.

After an introductory chat with members of the Committee and principal guests (I attach a list, which includes the Lord Mayor of Birmingham), a buffet lunch will be served, and there will be a separate table to which you can take individuals who might prove interesting. (I shall have cased the joint).

You will see that a number of large industries are represented, notably the Chairman of Lucas Industries and a group of small-businessmen. Commerce is also represented, notably by J Brown, President of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and until recently, Manager of the Birmingham Post. By definition the press will also be there.

At 2.30 you will be asked to speak and present awards for two competitions for press photographers. These are sponsored by Dixon's Photographic retailers and Esso Petroleum. Details of awards, in appropriate envelopes, will be available to you (some 6 in all). After that, which brings us towards 2.45 pm you can depart whenever you feel the need to escape.

Henry L James

18 July 1979

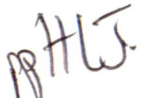
PRIME MINISTER

I attach a draft speech for the Birmingham Press Club. I shall let you have separately details of the awards which you are presenting.

It seemed to me that this might be an opportunity to press home one or two points following yesterday's announcements in the House (and tomorrow's - about NEB - too).

BBC local radio and both BBC TV and ATV will record the speech; initially for local consumption. You have already agreed to this.

If you agree to this text, however amended, I can arrange for it to be made available through COI regionally and here in London too. Local radio (BRMB) also request a 2-minute interview separately. We can decide on this on the day. I shall be there ahead of you and will be awaiting you on arrival.


Henry L James

18 July 1979

MISS STEPHENS

As at 16 July

THURSDAY 19 JULY

Chief Inspector Parker to Birmingham. Overnight at Albany Hotel.
021 643 8171

FRIDAY 20 JULY

0730 Leave No. 10

Car 1 Prime Minister
(Mr. Newell) Mr. Thatcher
Inspector Williams

Car 2 Mr. Gow
(Mr. Godbeer) Mr. Lankester
Mr. Howe

Car 3 Miss Jelley

0945 Arrive at Police Academy, Epperstone. 0602 269 700.

1000 Unveil Plaque in memory of Police Constable McDonald

1015 Inspect the Cadets

1100 Present the Cadet of the Year Awards and address assembly

1115 Leave Epperstone for Birmingham

Cars as before.

Mr. James to and from
Birmingham in his own car.

1245 Arrive Birmingham Press Club 021 359 4434

Buffet Lunch

Presentation of Awards

1500 Leave for London

1730 approx. Car 1 Prime Minister
Mr. Thatcher
Inspector Williams

Mr. Howe making his own
travelling arrangements.

Car 2 Mr. Gow
Mr. Lankester

Car 3 Miss Jelley
C/I Parker

1730 Arrive at No. 10.
approx.

MR. JAMES

Birmingham Press Club

We discussed your minute at the diary meeting and it was decided that the Prime Minister would attend this luncheon, she definitely does not wish to make a major speech on this occasion but she is happy to present the awards and to say a few words. Ideally, she would like a reception and a buffet luncheon and for the numbers to be increased. She mentioned the figure of about 60. I do not know whether this will be possible to arrange but maybe you could very kindly have a further word with Mr. Sumner and let me know. It will certainly not be necessary for the BBC and ITV cameras to be present.

18 June 1979

1. Miss Caroline Stephens
2. Prime Minister

I have looked into the commitment to attend the Birmingham Press Club and to present awards to photographers on 20 July. This is a commitment entered into in freer times.

// The programme as envisaged involved a small luncheon which would include Press Club directors, the President and Managing Director of the Wolverhampton Express and Star, and the Editors of the Birmingham post and the Birmingham Evening Mail. //

As originally envisaged, you had decided to seize the opportunity of making an important speech after lunch (and after making the awards) to an invited audience of about 80 people. But unless you feel that you still want to make such a speech (I gather on modern technology) this part of the programme could be cancelled, leaving only the intimate lunch and presentation.

~ You should know that the awards are sponsored by Dixon's the photographic chain and Esso. This is not in my view a necessary disqualification because most awards now need sponsorship and this is the traditional patronage role of industry. The objective is to stimulate professionalism in photography and design in the media.

The especial advantages from my point of view lay in the opportunity to meet the eclectic best of West Midlands journalism which is a considerable power base. And I would personally seize the opportunity to follow through and consolidate our contacts with these newspapers.

You have another earlier engagement in the East Midlands (Nottingham) when you are also called upon to speak. I think you may feel in these circumstances that you either cancel

the whole Birmingham project - which would I think disappoint the media there - or to restrict yourself to the lunch with Editors and the formal awards (foregoing the speech). This would be logistically much easier and much less of a strain (you have later engagements). The journey from Nottingham to Birmingham is comparatively simple, and you might feel indeed that to go so far just for the Nottingham engagement would on the whole be wasteful.

May we discuss, please?

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'H. L. James', written in dark ink.

Henry L James
15 June 1979

8th February 1979

I am writing on behalf of Mrs Thatcher regarding your invitation for her to perform the duties of Inspecting Officer at the Annual Inspection of Police Cadets at your Training Academy in Epperstone.

I am just confirming that Mrs Thatcher is much looking forward to undertaking this engagement on Friday 20th July. But if a General Election is called between now and then we may well, of course, have to look at this engagement in light of other commitments which Mrs Thatcher may have at the time.

We will be in touch with you again during the next few weeks about detailed arrangements.

Richard Ryder
Private Office

Chief Constable C McLachlan QPM MA LLB



Agreed RR
people.
Don't meet.
cl. 5/2

ADAM

I think that it would be very worthwhile for Mrs. Thatcher to present the Midlands Press Photographer of the Year awards, if it can be conveniently fitted into a visit to the West Midlands.

RR
—

As we are so close to an Election, and there are so many marginal seats, it could do nothing but good.

v. good idea; in
a Town
Anything on the
books?
level

D.A.H.

31st January, 1979

Aden

5/2