

PRIME MINISTER AT CHEQUERS - CHRISTMAS 1979

For this, the Prime Minister's first Christmas at Chequers, she will be joined by both Carol and Mark (and, of course, Mr. Thatcher).

The menu for the Christmas Day lunch is attached. There will also be crackers and a traditional Christmas cake, baked and iced by the Chequers chef, Flight Sergeant Colin Holden, B.E.M.

The centrepiece of the decorations is a 14' high Christmas tree (grown on the Chequers estate) standing in the Great Hall. Incorporated in the holly decoration are several hundred cards sent to the Prime Minister by members of the public. All the inter-service Chequers staff - WRAF, WRAC and WRNS - have been helping with the decorations.

The turkey is being delivered today by representatives of the British Turkey Federation (see previous bulletin attached). The Prime Minister is paying for the turkey which is bound for Chequers.

BBC TV and the independent companies are providing a selection of video tapes of programmes the Prime Minister has missed for screening at Chequers. These include "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy".

CHRISTMAS CARDS

To date the Prime Minister has received about 1,700 cards: more are still arriving.

She sends: about 900 "official cards" (i.e. in her capacity as Prime Minister);
about 1,500 "personal and political".

Jane Parsons would prefer it if we did not get into "the numbers game", especially when it comes to the "official" cards. I

can see no great harm/benefit either way - we have certainly let this figure be known in previous years.

At which point it seems appropriate to wish all our readers - especially those on home duty a happy and peaceful Christmas and all they would wish themselves for 1980.

Rudolph the red-nosed press officer
"God bless us, every one".

AW

Christmas Day

25th December 1979

Christmas Dinner 6 Covers 1 pm ? to be confirmed..

Avocado Pear and Grapefruit Salad (or Caviar?) & Vodka.

—
Hochheimer 1975

Roast Turkey

Chestnut stuffing and Force meat Stuffing

Cranberry Sauce and Bread Sauce

Bacon Rolls and Chipolata Sausages

Roast Potatoes

Brussels Sprouts

Glazed Carrots

Garden Peas

—
Chateau Gruaud Larose 1961

Christmas Pudding

Brandy Sauce or Cream

Hot Mince Pies

Desert Nuts Dates Figs Chocolates

—
Brandy Port Cigars

Coffee