



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Secretary for Appointments*

30 August 1979

*Dear Johnnie,*

I am writing to confirm our talks so far about seating for 5 September.

(i) The Lord Chancellor is unable to attend, and Lord Soames as Lord President will be in his place. He will be accompanied by Lady Soames.

I expect that you will be in touch direct with the Speaker, but I understand that he plans to attend.

(ii) The list of Cabinet Ministers (in order of seniority) expected to attend is as follows:-

Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher  
Home Secretary and Mrs Whitelaw  
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and Lady Carrington  
Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lady Howe  
Secretary of State for Industry  
Secretary of State for Defence and Mrs Pym  
Secretary of State for Scotland and Mrs Younger  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Mrs Atkins  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

(16 Seats)

(iii) I will let you know if there are any changes to this list, and will let you know as soon as possible the names of the leading members of the other political parties who will be using the balance of (14) seats within the allocation of 30 which you kindly agreed. But I can say now that one of these seats will be occupied by Mr James Molyneux MP (ticket to be sent, please, to the House of Commons).

(iv) We had a word about seating former Prime Ministers, and I have contacted them all. Mr Macmillan plans to attend (ticket, please, to 4 Little Essex Street, WC2). Lord Home is laid low with a bad back and slipped disc, will not be able to attend. Sir Harold Wilson is on holiday, back at the end of this week. I expect that he will want tickets for himself and Lady Wilson. Mr Heath plans to attend.



To sum up, it looks as if 4 seats will be needed for former Prime Ministers. I imagine that you will be seating Mr Callaghan, as Leader of the Opposition, with the seats covered by (iii) above.

(v) A number of those mentioned above will be accompanied by their private detectives. I expect this will be true of others attending the Service, and I wonder what your plan for this will be (find a place, probably standing, quietly somewhere?).

(vi) We had a word about Lord Attlee, and I have asked for him to have a seat in the House of Lords allocation.

If you want any help from the Government over ushers no doubt you will let us know.

*Yours sincerely,  
Crispin Peckham*

Lieutenant-Colonel John F D Johnston CVO MC

P.S. I have just had a message that Sir Harold Wilson and Lady Wilson will definitely be attending.