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Personal

M. R. Melhuish, Esq.,
North America Department,
F. C. O.

Your reference

Our reference

Date 25 May, 1977.

Mr. Fyfe-Walker
Mr. Davidson
Mr. Lewis
Mr. Phillips

Dear Rowan,

I enclose a copy of a minute which I have put to the Private Office today about the visits of Mrs. Thatcher and Sir G. Howe, details of which I have just learnt from Jack Crowley in the State Department. If there is any information you can add from your end, it would be very useful. Given the obvious difficulties which those visits could present both in terms of the political situation at home and the arrival of the new Ambassador, I think we shall need to agree pretty clearly some way beforehand just how we are to handle them. It may well be that Mrs. Thatcher, for example, will expect to rely less on the support of the Embassy than she did in 1975. But we shall need to be clear in our own minds just how far we can go in arranging speaking engagements, programmes, appointments, etc.

*Yours truly,
Wark;*

R. M. Russell

Enc:

1. In addition to Mrs. Thatcher's visit to the State Department to say goodbye to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the State Department is preparing to visit Washington from 25 to 29 July, though these dates are adjustable. He has asked for appointments with the President, Mr. F. W. [unclear] and Dr. Arthur Burns. The U.S. Embassy in London have assumed that the appointment with the President is doubtful, but have recommended strongly in favour of Sir Geoffrey's visiting Mr. Blumenthal and Dr. Burns. Sir Geoffrey Howe is planning to go on from Washington to visit Chicago and California on business in connection with his [unclear]