

CONFIDENTIAL



file
B.
France.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8/F1-6-79

25 May 1979

Dear Martin,

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have sent today to George Walden in the FCO, conveying the Prime Minister's wishes concerning the arrangements for her visit to Paris on 5 June. Sir John Hunt may wish to have an additional word of explanation.

The Prime Minister considered Sir John Hunt's minute of 22 May to Ken Stowe, but is strongly of the view that the size of her team for any overseas visit, and particularly for this one which she sees as having the strictly limited objective of establishing personal contact with President Giscard, should be kept to the essential minimum. She does not wish any Minister other than the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to accompany her and she does not consider that, for this visit, she is likely to need any advice on the spot which could not be provided by HM Ambassador in Paris or his staff.

It will, of course, be necessary to explain to the Prime Minister in due course that for other categories of overseas visits, such as the meetings of the European Council, a slightly larger team will be unavoidable; but we can cross that hurdle when we come to it.

The Prime Minister has seen, but has made no comment on, Sir John Hunt's further minute of 23 May, about the objectives and briefing for the visit. In the light of the way in which the Prime Minister sees the visit, however, as evidenced in her decision on the composition of her party, Sir John Hunt may consider that both the objectives and the list of briefs should be somewhat modified. A prime requirement will be advice on the way in which the single two-hour session with President Giscard might best be handled.

I think the briefs will need to reach the Prime Minister by 1700 on Friday 1 June and I should therefore be grateful if you would arrange for them to be with me by noon on that day.

Yours sincerely,
Bryan Cartledge.

Martin Vile, Esq.,
Cabinet Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 May 1979

Dear George,

Prime Minister's Visit to Paris - 5 June 1979

The Prime Minister has now given further consideration to the arrangements for her visit to Paris on 5 June for discussions with President Giscard.

The Prime Minister wishes to keep her party for this visit (and for all future visits overseas) as small as is consistent with achieving the objectives of the occasion as she sees them. She would like to be accompanied to Paris only by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and his Private Secretary, a Private Secretary from No. 10 (Mr. Stowe or myself), one Garden Room Girl and a detective. The whole party will thus fit into one HS 125. The Prime Minister is quite content to rely on the resources of HM Embassy in Paris for any additional advice or practical assistance which she may require.

So far as the programme is concerned, the Prime Minister would like to suggest to President Giscard that they should have two hours of discussion before lunch, perhaps inviting the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and M. Raymond Barre to join them for the final half-an-hour. I shall let you know as soon as possible the Prime Minister's preference as to the size and nature of the lunch. During the afternoon, rather than having a further session of talks, the Prime Minister's strong preference would be to visit a French nuclear plant. I should be grateful if HM Ambassador in Paris could be instructed to convey the Prime Minister's suggestions for the programme to the Elysee as soon as possible.

I am writing separately to the Cabinet Office about the objectives and briefing for the Prime Minister's visit.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

John Carlisle

G.G.H. Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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