



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 February 1982

Dear John,

*Overtaken. Await further
letter. A.D.C. 1/2
h.a.*

INVITATION TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

You will have seen the American announcement that President Reagan is to visit Paris and Rome when he comes to Europe for the NATO Summit in June. There is speculation in the press that he may also visit other European capitals, but the Americans have not responded to the invitation extended by The Queen that the President should spend two days as Her guest at Windsor. At Sir Nicholas Henderson's suggestion, we have considered the possibility of trying to arrange for the NATO Summit to be held in London rather than Brussels, but the latest report from Washington suggests that they are assuming that the Summit will be held in Brussels. Since we do not rate highly our chances of being able to switch the meeting to London and since there are obvious advantages in holding the Summit at the present juncture of events in continental Europe, we do not propose to pursue that idea further (and are so informing the Embassy in Washington).

Lord Carrington is concerned however at the prospect of President Reagan visiting a number of European capitals without including London. Given the situation described in Washington telno 303 (attached) we need to send Sir Nicholas Henderson further instructions to use with the White House and State Department. These instructions propose two alternative dates.

I therefore attach a draft telegram to Washington to which we would be grateful for the Prime Minister's agreement.

CLOSED UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT 2000

Yours over.

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
No.10 Downing Street
LONDON

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

CONFIDENTIAL

Precedence/Deskby

IMMEDIATE

1 ZCZC

2 GRS

3 CONFIDENTIAL

4

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6 FM FCO 011500Z FEB 82

7 TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

8 TELEGRAM NUMBER

9 INFO MANILA (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)

10 YOUR TELNO 303: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S TRAVEL PLANS

11

12 1. You took exactly the right line with Deaver, but as it now
 13 seems to be generally assumed that the NATO Summit will be in
 14 Brussels, I see no point in trying to shift this. We should
 15 not be content however at the prospect of Reagan visiting Paris,
 16 Rome, Brussels and possibly other European capitals (Madrid has
 17 now been suggested in the press) without coming to London. We
 18 note that the Americans envisage only a brief visit to Rome
 19 after the Economic Summit. This would seem still to leave open
 20 the possibility of a visit to London after Rome and before the
 21 NATO Summit.

22 2. You should therefore make urgent representations to the
 23 White House and in parallel to the State Department on the
 24 following lines. The original invitation from the Prime
 25 Minister to President Reagan to visit the United Kingdom, which

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telegram

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Catchword

/has now

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SIR MICHAEL PALLISER'S OFFICE

Dept

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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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IMMEDIATE

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2 has now been followed up by the invitation from The Queen to
3 come here on 7 and 8 June, still stands. As well as staying
4 with The Queen at Windsor, the programme for such a visit would
5 of course provide the President with opportunities for
6 entertainment by and working talks with the Prime Minister.
7 There would also be occasion for publicised appearances, very
8 likely a televised address to the joint Houses of Parliament
9 in Westminster Hall. You might add that if the President were
10 able to spare time for some relaxation during this stage in his
11 tour, Windsor would provide opportunities for riding horses
12 from The Queen's stables in the secure conditions of the Park.
13 You might also add that if the President could not spare time for a
14 two-night visit we nonetheless hope that he would come for as
15 long as he could manage. We would envisage his being conveyed
16 by helicopter between London and Windsor (the way members of
17 the Royal Family frequently travel).

18 3. If you think this appropriate you could suggest as an
19 alternative that the President might come to the UK before the
20 Economic Summit, which begins in Versailles from 4pm on 4 June.
21 The Pope will be leaving from Cardiff at the end of his visit
22 on 2 June. Despite the organisational scramble, The Queen and
23 the Prime Minister would be glad to welcome the President on
24 a visit between 2 and 4 June, when similar arrangements could
25 be made to those described above.

26
27 Carrington

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