



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 May 1980

Michael Alexander Esq
 Private Secretary
 No 10 Downing Street

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Dear Alexander,

POSSIBLE BILATERAL MEETINGS AT PRESIDENT TITO'S FUNERAL

1. You asked for suggestions on what bilateral meetings the Prime Minister might have in Belgrade. We wrote offering preliminary advice on this on 15 February.
2. There is likely to be time for only two or three substantial meetings: one or two on the evening of Wednesday 7 May (when there are no official engagements); and possibly a breakfast meeting on the morning of 8 May. There will however also be opportunities for briefer meetings during the buffet lunch which the Yugoslav Government is arranging for senior representatives on 8 May.
3. It seems unlikely that President Carter will attend the funeral. If he decides to do so, Lord Carrington assumes that the Prime Minister would wish to have a meeting with him. If, as seems more probable, Vice-President Mondale is the US representative, Lord Carrington does not see any overriding need for the Prime Minister to see him. It would be more important, in Lord Carrington's view, to try to do as much fence-mending as possible with our EEC partners, particularly Schmidt, Giscard and Cossiga. Lord Carrington would not expect the Prime Minister to discuss the substance of the budget problem with them; rather, she could urge them to get the whole nexus of issues in dispute settled before the Venice European Council; emphasize her own willingness to do so; make clear that in our view the gap remaining is relatively small, and is bridgeable; and suggest that the Foreign Ministers should be given a clear mandate to settle.

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4. Other strong candidates for meetings with the Prime Minister would be Mrs Gandhi, President Sadat and President Shagari of Nigeria (if he comes). Mrs Gandhi could be a key figure in our attempts to galvanize Third World opposition to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. President Sadat has not met any member of the present Government since it took office. A meeting with President Shagari would be helpful in view of the commercial importance of our relations with Nigeria. The Prime Minister has not met President Kaunda since the Lancaster House Conference and he would be another candidate.
5. Other possibilities would be Chairman Hua, who has already announced that he will be going to Belgrade, though there is no essential business to conduct with him; and President Zia of Pakistan.
6. Lord Carrington does not recommend that the Prime Minister should seek a meeting with President Brezhnev if he decides to attend, or with any other senior Soviet representative, though he thinks the Prime Minister ought to be prepared to respond positively if the Russians ask for a meeting. Lord Carrington himself is considering, subject to further news about American intentions, the possibility of a meeting with Mr Gromyko in Vienna on 16 May in the margins of the Austrian State Treaty ceremonies.

Yours ever,

Robert Cooper

for Paul Lever

Assistant Private Secretary

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