



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 March 1982

*Dear [Name]*

I am sorry that you had to hear about the visit of the President and Mrs Reagan in the media before I had approached you formally about inviting him to address members of both Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall on 8 June. Richard Luce spoke to you at my request to convey our apologies for this unforeseen and unintended discourtesy. As you now know, the Americans gave us no warning.

Although it is not being described as a "State Visit", the visit is being arranged as if it were such by the Lord Chamberlain's Office. The Prime Minister and I attach importance to the success of the visit. Details of the President's programme are not yet final, and we still await a formal response from the Americans before it is cleared with the Prime Minister and submitted to The Queen for Her Majesty's approval.

The proposal that the President should be invited to deliver an address at Westminster Hall would be a central feature of the programme. It would be a signal honour, and one clearly welcome to President Reagan himself. As Parliament will only just have returned from the Whitsun recess, some re-arrangement of the Parliamentary Committee programme may be needed. But I do hope that we can so arrange things as to make this invitation possible.

/I have

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone CH





I have written to the Lord Great Chamberlain asking him to seek the approval of The Queen for the use of Westminster Hall. You may recall that a ceremony of this kind was arranged at Westminster Hall in April 1960 during the State Visit of President de Gaulle. The arrangements would follow this established precedent, and meetings to execute and plan the ceremony would be called in due course once agreement has been given. I hope that you will agree to be represented.

*[Handwritten signature]*

(CARRINGTON)