

RECEIVED IN
REGISTRY No. 72
- 7 JUL 1975

Mr 2/595/7

PA
M
7/7

40

MRS THATCHER'S VISIT TO NEW YORK

1 A meeting was held this afternoon in Mrs Thatcher's office in the House of Commons to discuss her visit to New York. Mr Booth put a number of questions to Mrs Thatcher about her intentions on the basis of which we were able to clarify her ideas and Mr Booth is now going to sketch out a draft programme.

2 Mr Maudling was present during the meeting. Also present were Mr Richard Ryder and myself.


3 The following points were agreed (on the basis of the outline in FCO telegram to Washington no 1316):-

- (a) the morning of Sunday 14 September would be kept free but in the afternoon Mrs Thatcher would be prepared to record any Television interviews that could be arranged or alternatively use the time in some other useful way.
- (b) She would dine on the evening of Sunday 14 September with the Consul General.
- (c) Mrs Thatcher agreed to drop the Women's National Democratic Group whether in New York or Washington from the programme. She was keen, however, to address a representative group of women and liked the idea of the Women's Branch of the Foreign Policy Association (BIS New York telegram no 30).
- (d) She was firm about doing something for the English-speaking Union but would be happy that this should be a reception if it fitted more easily into the programme.
- (e) She was also firm about a Pilgrims dinner and asked that it should be on the record.
- (f) She accepted that the BIS meeting with editors should be over lunch.
- (g) She liked the idea of dining with Mr Ivor Richard.

/4 Mrs Thatcher

4 Mrs Thatcher emphasised the following further points:-.

- (a) She did not want to be too easily available to reporters and television interviewers. She felt this would cheapen her. She would decide later what she would do, in addition to Buckley and the Today Programme.
- (b) Adequate time must be left between engagements for her to prepare. For example she would dress for the Pilgrims dinner whether or not it was a black tie occasion. She did not want to go down as a scruffy female politician.
- (c) This applied particularly to preparations for television appearances, where adequate time must be allowed for making up and for proper preparations.
- (d) She was not ready yet to say what the theme of her major speech in New York would be. All she would say was that it would be an appropriate speech for the Pilgrims.


Derek Thomas
North American Dept

3 July 1975

Copied to:

R M Russell Esq, WASHINGTON

W E N Whyte Esq, NEW YORK

J M Heath Esq, CHICAGO

T Empson Esq, OTTAWA

C Spearman Esq, TORONTO