



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 March 1981

Dear David,

I believe that there is a general wish that there should be a further public memorial to Admiral of the Fleet Lord Mountbatten of Burma, and I am writing to enquire whether you would feel able to join me, with a small number of other public figures, in sponsoring a public appeal for a statue.

I have consulted The Queen, and Countess Mountbatten of Burma, about a possible plan and I have concluded that the best available site for a statue would be on the Foreign Office Green, where it could look north across Horse Guards Parade. I would like, with your agreement and support, to launch an appeal for a public subscription which might perhaps be initiated by a letter to The Times which we would jointly sign. I should welcome your views on this, and also on timing; I have delayed approaching you until now, as I wanted to give the Mountbatten Memorial Trust a clear run for their own appeal. But it might be appropriate to launch this appeal next month.

I have it in mind that one might supplement an appeal by making a special approach to selected organisations and I should also welcome your views on whether this would be a good idea.

/ As to

25/3

As to sponsorship of an appeal I think that it might be appropriate for us to invite a former Chief of Staff from each of the three Services, and one or two of Lord Mountbatten's other most senior colleagues to join us and Michael Foot as sponsors.

Those I have in mind are Admiral of the Fleet Sir Caspar John, Field Marshal Lord Harding, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Dermot Boyle, Lord Zuckerman and Lord Trevelyan; and if you are content I will sound them out, and invite them to join us in signing a letter to The Times.

I should be very glad for your views, in the light of which I could refine the proposals. I very much hope that you will feel able to join with me in sponsoring an appeal.

I am writing in similar terms to Michael Foot.

Yours sincerely,

Ray and Helene

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The Rt. Hon. David Steel, M.P.



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*Yours sincerely,*

*Raymond Fletcher*

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The Rt. Hon. Michael Foot, M.P.