

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT OF PRESIDENT REAGAN

Now that the Royal Gallery issue has been settled we shall get back to working out the rest of the programme. Mr. Deaver has again confused things because despite the very clear information he was given during his visit to London, and despite receiving written confirmation from Sir Nicholas Henderson later, he has somehow got the impression that President Reagan's talks and lunch with you would be on Tuesday 8 June rather than Wednesday 9 June.

W

We intend to do all we can to reinstate the original programme, ie talks with you at 1100 on Wednesday, followed by lunch at 1230, enabling him to depart for Bonn at 1430. This would clearly be best from your point of view.

Failing this, we would do our best to arrange a suitable programme on the Tuesday. Mr. Deaver has referred to the possibility of talks here from 1030-1130 on that day, followed by President Reagan's address in the Royal Gallery at noon, lunch here from about 1300 to 1415, with the President leaving at 1415 to enable you to prepare for Questions. This has several inconveniences and I suspect that the President will be reluctant to hold talks here shortly before his address to the Royal Gallery.

Do you agree that we should try again to fix the talks and lunch for Wednesday but that if this proves impossible we should do our best to work out a sensible programme for the Tuesday?

I don't think he will want this. It would make sense to do Tuesday.

If Tuesday is preferred I shall be quite content.

A.J.C.

The Speaker wants to give a reception of the address.

26 March 1982

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 March 1982

Dear John,

Visit of President Reagan

Washington telno 948 conveys the revised American suggestions for President Reagan's programme. These cut completely across the outline programme attached to John Holmes's letter of 22 March which had been based on discussions with Mr Deaver and his team and subsequently with the American Embassy here.

Lord Carrington recommends that we should not accept Deaver's new proposals without further probing. The proposed departure time (11.30 on the Wednesday) is new. We have not been given the reasons for this change, but we suspect (from approaches at working level to the American Embassy in Bonn) that the Americans wish to set aside some time for bilateral meetings with the Germans before the start of the NATO Summit. Our preference is to stick to our original programme. Mr Streater, the Minister in the United States Embassy in London, has told us that he has been in touch with his Ambassador, currently on holiday in Florida, urging him to contact Deaver direct and get the former outline programme reinstated. (This would incidentally retain the American lunch at Winfield House). We should instruct Sir N Henderson to back up this initiative.

If, however, the Americans at the end of the day insist on the President's departure at 11.00 or 11.30 on the Wednesday, we shall need to re-think the entire programme for Tuesday 8 June. We know how inconvenient lunch before Questions in the House would be for the Prime Minister, but can see no way round this if Parliament has reassembled by then. Deaver's other ideas are not at first glance any more satisfactory. The timing of the Address to Members of both Houses of Parliament, at noon, is fixed and we do not want to disturb it. But the idea of inserting a bare hour of talks into the period immediately before this important Address does not seem likely to recommend itself to the President on reflection.

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The purpose of this letter is to seek the Prime Minister's agreement:

- a) that we should first try to reinstate the existing programme;
- b) that, if nevertheless the new Wednesday departure is confirmed, we should examine with the Americans the various possibilities for a revised programme involving a lunch at 10 Downing Street on Tuesday 8 June.

Yours com.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Francis Richards'.

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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FM WASHINGTON 231830Z MAR 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 948 OF 23 MARCH

MY TELNO 943: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT

1. WHEN I SAW DEEVER AND CLARK TODAY THE LATTER TOLD ME THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED THIS MORNING TO ACCEPT THE IDEA OF SPEAKING IN THE ROYAL GALLERY. HIS AIM WAS TO DO WHATEVER THE PRIME MINISTER WANTED. CLARK AND DEEVER ASSUMED THAT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD ACCEPTED THE USE OF THE ROYAL GALLERY AND WOULD NOT BOYCOTT OR INTERRUPT THE CEREMONY. THEY ASKED WHETHER THEY WERE RIGHT IN ASSUMING THAT THE SPEECH WOULD STILL BE TELEVISED BECAUSE THIS WAS MOST IMPORTANT FOR U.S. AS WELL AS WORLDWIDE AUDIENCES.
2. WE HAD SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND CLARK ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT IT SHOULD CONTAIN. I SAID THAT WE WOULD BE VERY READY AT ANY TIME TO HELP ON THIS BUT MY IMMEDIATE THOUGHT WAS THAT HE SHOULD OBVIOUSLY SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE ALLIANCE AND U.S./U K RELATIONS IN PARTICULAR, ABOUT EAST WEST RELATIONS AND ABOUT ARMS CONTROL. THE SPEECH WOULD BE EXTREMELY WIDELY VIEWED IN THE U K AND INDEED IN EUROPE AND IT SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK ANTI-AMERICANISM THERE.
3. I SAID THAT WE WOULD BE ANNOUNCING FROM NO 10 EARLY TOMORROW MORNING, THE 24TH MARCH, THE DECISION TO USE THE ROYAL GALLERY NOW THAT I KNEW THAT THE PRESIDENT ACCEPTED THIS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF A STATEMENT COULD BE MADE BY THE WHITE HOUSE WELCOMING THIS DECISION AFTER IT WAS ANNOUNCED. DEEVER SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE.
4. WE HAD SOME TALK ABOUT THE PROGRAMME AND INEVITABLY ABOUT THE RIDE. CLARK THINKS HE WOULD NOT SUGGEST JOINING THE RIDE IF THERE WAS NO-ONE ELSE TAKING PART EXCEPT FOR THE QUEEN AND THE PRESIDENT. BUT IF THERE WOULD BE OTHERS RIDING HE WOULD LIKE TO DO SO. THE SUBJECT OF RIDING WAS ALSO TOUCHED ON IN A WORD WE HAD ABOUT EXCHANGES OF PRESENTS (I MADE CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DECORATIONS). DEEVER SAID THAT THE TROUBLE WAS THAT ANY PRESENT WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN UP BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER HE CEASED TO HOLD THE OFFICE. HOWEVER, HE WAS SURE THAT HE WOULD LIKE AN ENGLISH SADDLE AND THIS COULD HAVE A PRIZE PLACE IN WHATEVER MUSEUM WAS CREATED FOR REAGAN. ALTERNATIVELY A MODEL OF A HORSE IN BRONZE MIGHT BE AN IDEA. CLARK INTERJECTED THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD ALWAYS QUOTE USE MORE LEATHER UNQUOTE, BY WHICH I THINK HE MEANT THAT AN ENGLISH SADDLE AND BRIDLE WOULD BE WELCOME.

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5. DEEVER TOLD ME THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING FROM HIS TALKS IN LONDON HAD BEEN THAT THE LUNCH WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS GOING TO BE ON TUESDAY, THE 8TH, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT. THIS WAS IN FACT THE ONLY TIME THE PRESIDENT COULD MANAGE BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE TO BE LEAVING ON WEDNESDAY MORNING AT AROUND 11.30 BY AIR FOR BONN. I SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT MY IDEA OF WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED IN LONDON NOR DID IT TALLY WITH THE OUTLINE THAT I HAD SENT TO HIS OFFICE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. HOWEVER IF THIS WAS A DEFINITE DECISION I WOULD INFORM LONDON IMMEDIATELY. DEEVER SAID THAT HE HOPED THE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER COULD TAKE PLACE ON THE TUESDAY MORNING BETWEEN SAY 10.30 AND 11.30. THE RIDE WOULD THEN OCCUR EARLY ON THE WEDNESDAY MORNING SAY AT 9.00 AM. THE AIM WOULD BE TO TAKE A HELICOPTER FROM WINDSOR CASTLE AT ABOUT 11 AM AND TAKE OFF FROM HEATHROW AT 11.30.

6. WE TALKED ABOUT THE QUOTE MEET THE PEOPLE UNQUOTE ITEM. DEEVER WAS NOT AT HIS MOST CONSTRUCTIVE ON THIS SUBJECT SUGGESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT DRIVE DOWN TO WINDSOR AFTER THE LUNCH AT NO 10 ON THE TUESDAY AND STOP AT ONE OR TWO VILLAGES ON THE WAY TO WINDSOR. HE SAID THAT THE SECURITY PEOPLE WERE LESS WORRIED ABOUT THE PRESIDENT MEETING PEOPLE IN VILLAGES THAN IN BIG TOWNS. I TOLD HIM ABOUT THE SOMEWHAT BUILT-UP NATURE OF THE LANDSCAPE BETWEEN LONDON AND WINDSOR. IF YOU AGREE I THINK THAT FURTHER THOUGHT WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO THIS ITEM OF THE PROGRAMME ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE ARE REALLY STARTING FROM SCRATCH. DEEVER WAS TEMPTED BY THE IDEA OF CHURCHILL'S QUOTE BURIAL PLACE UNQUOTE BUT I TOLD HIM IT WAS REALLY RATHER FAR FOR A HELICOPTER.

7. TO SUM UP:

- I) THERE WAS NO TROUBLE ABOUT THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT TOMORROW ON THE ROYAL GALLERY.
- II) THE AMERICANS ARE ASSUMING THAT THE LUNCH WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE ON THE TUESDAY. THEY KNOW THAT SHE HAS QUESTIONS EARLY THAT AFTERNOON AND SEE NO REASON WHY THE LUNCH SHOULD NOT END AT 2.15.
- III) WE WOULD HAVE TO GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT TO THE QUOTE MEET THE PEOPLE UNQUOTE EPISODE.
- IV) AS REGARDS MRS REAGAN'S PROGRAMME SHE WILL ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT AND PRESUMABLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCH. MARY WILL BE SEEING HER TOMORROW TO DISCUSS THE VISIT SO PERHAPS YOU COULD LET ME KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY IDEAS YOU WANT TO FIT IN ABOUT SOME SUITABLE GOOD WORK THAT MRS REAGAN COULD DO EARLY ON THE TUESDAY MORNING.

HENDERSON
LIMMEDI)
NAD
PCD
NEWS)
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MRHUR)

PS/MPLUCE
PS/PUS
MR JIFFARD)
MR URE

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