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22 January 1981

VISIT TO BRITAIN BY PRESIDENT REAGAN

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 21 January on this subject. She agrees that a proposal for a formal invitation to President Reagan to visit this country should be included in her briefing.

Visit to  
USA, Feb 81.  
Jan 81.

The Prime Minister has asked whether it would not be possible to offer President Reagan a State Visit, even if this had to omit the Open Carriage Ride. I should be grateful if you could let me have a note of the problems which have led us in the past to eschew State Visits by Presidents of the United States.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*I think it would be very nice if it were a state visit - even without*

21 January 1981

*Dear Michael, an open* *Prime Minister* *Apr 21*

Visit to Britain by President Reagan

In her message of congratulation to President-elect Reagan immediately after the election, the Prime Minister said that he would always find a welcome in this country. I enclose part of the transcript from a press conference given by Mr Ed Meese which shows that Mr Reagan has correctly taken this as an invitation to visit Britain.

When she visits Washington at the end of February, the Prime Minister may wish to convey the invitation more formally. For logistic and security reasons Presidents of the United States do not usually pay State Visits to Britain. During the present reign, they have stayed here as guests of HMG, with The Queen being involved in their programmes. If the Prime Minister agrees, therefore, a proposal for a formal invitation to President Reagan to visit this country as a guest of HMG will be included in her briefing.

Once we hear from you we will be in touch with the Palace.

*Yours own,*  
*Francis Richards*

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

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Mr Day

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J P Millington Esq MVO  
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Your reference

Our reference

Date 25 November 1980

my delay

- ① Mr Berry
- ② Mr Berthoud
- ③ Eule

HUB 8/12

Dear Joe,

J 2/12

VISIT TO LONDON BY MR REAGAN

1. Ed Meese, Mr Reagan's Transition Director, was interviewed on television on 18 November.

2. As you will see from the enclosed transcript Mr Meese was asked about the possibility of a visit by President Reagan to China. In the course of his reply he said: "The President-elect has received invitations to visit a number of different countries, particularly one of the first was from Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Great Britain and he has received several others".

Jams.  
Stephen

J S Wall

Pa J 16/12

You know, the Secretary of Health, Education -- or now Health and Human Services, Mrs. Harris, has in her own department, from her own auditors, there are a number of places where they said that tightening up could affect savings. I believe it started under Mr. Califano and this could amount to as much as seven billion dollars. Well, that's half of the two percent cut that would be needed in the federal budget. Now, you can't achieve all of that in one year, but it illustrates the type of cuts that could be made without in any way eliminating or cutting down the benefits to the truly needy.

BROKAW: How does Governor Reagan feel about the appropriations bill that is now in a House-Senate conference committee that would rule out any money for the Justice Department be used on court-ordered school busing, and it would also reinstate grain sales?

MEESE: Well, he has not taken a specific position on that still because, as you know, it was just passed yesterday I believe. However, I'm sure that's one of the topics that will be discussed today when we meet with the legislative leaders.

BROKAW: Do you think that's a good place to save money, ruling out money for school busing?

MEESE: Well, I know in the campaign it came up several times, and from what the Governor learned as he went around the country, it seems that this use of federal money certainly did not promote harmony among the races nor did it appear to be achieving the results that were sought, namely, improving the education of children. So, I'm sure this will be a subject of great discussion today in our meetings.

BROKAW: Briefly, you have acknowledged receiving an invitation for Governor Reagan to visit China some time after he is inaugurated. Do you think that that's a prospect in the first year of his administration, and secondly, what other foreign countries have invited him to visit?

MEESE: Well, actually, it was Vice President-elect Bush who made that statement about the invitation and he'd made it in the context -- and wasn't it interesting, that whereas the Chinese leaders during the campaign had been critical of now President-elect Reagan that now their mood seems to have changed considerably and they're very pleased to welcome him to their country. We feel this is a great step forward but as yet we have not decided on any specific travel plans either to China or to any other country.

But, the President-elect has received invitations to visit a number of different countries, particularly one of the first was from Mrs. Thatcher, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Great Britain, and he's received several others.

BROKAW: All right, thank you very much, Ed Meese, who is very close to the President-elect of course.

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