



USA

Speaker's House Westminster London SW1A 0AA

10th March 1982

In Confidence

Dear Margaret,

As you know, I have told the House that I would have something to say on President Reagan's visit. I think that after Business Questions tomorrow might be a suitable time. I plan to say something on the lines of:

"I undertook to look into the matter of the visit of President Reagan to the Palace of Westminster, and to make a simple statement to the House.

I understand that the suggestion is that the President would be received in Westminster Hall, and that he would be invited by the Government to address members of both Houses of Parliament. There would of course be no question of a "Joint Session of Parliament". Such an occasion is unknown in our Institutions. But I am sure that the Right Honourable and Honourable Members would wish to mark the occasion of the visit of a distinguished Head of State to this country as a guest of the Queen by welcoming him to the Palace of Westminster, and hearing what he has to say on behalf of that great and friendly nation of which he is the Leader."

I understand that the Leader of the House of Lords is considering making a statement, but after I have made mine.

It would be good if we could have a chat to make sure that I say nothing to embarrass you,
George.
Speaker

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1.