

CONFIDENTIAL



Arts & Antiques ds

cc Master

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 December 1980

BF 2.1.81

When the Chancellor of the Duchy met the Prime Minister this morning, he raised two arts matters.

The Chancellor of the Duchy reported his conversations with Dr. Armand Hammer about the latter's purchase of the Leonardo da Vinci Codex. The Prime Minister received this morning the enclosed letter from Dr. Hammer, who describes the arrangements he has agreed with the Chancellor of the Duchy for regular display of the Codex in this country, and for restoration. The Chancellor of the Duchy explained that he had it in mind to require, as a condition of the export licence, that the Codex should continue to be displayed in this country until after Dr. Hammer's death. He also explained that the established procedure for considering export licence applications could not be completed in time for Dr. Hammer to display the Codex during the Inauguration celebrations on 17 January.

The Prime Minister said that she hoped that an export licence could be granted. She understood that this Codex was not an absolutely outstanding example of Leonardo's art. She very much hoped that it would be possible for Dr. Hammer to have the Codex available on 17 January, even if this was seen as a temporary absence from the country pending the decision on an export licence. In view of Dr. Hammer's declared intention to show it in this country in February, it should presumably be possible to come to some informal understanding. I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Dr. Hammer. It would be helpful if this could reach me by 2 January.

The Chancellor of the Duchy also informed the Prime Minister of his conversations with the Duke of Devonshire about the future of the Chatsworth collection. The Prime Minister said that she hoped the Duke could be persuaded to announce his trust proposals and his specific sale plans simultaneously.

M. A. PATTISON

Miss Mary Giles,
Office of the Minister for the Arts.

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