



Stanford Univ

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 January 1981

You may have seen the announcement in the Press that Mrs. Thatcher will be visiting Washington and New York from 25-28 February next. I fear that her programme for this brief visit is already extremely crowded and that there is, therefore, no possibility of her taking up on this occasion the kind invitation conveyed through our Embassy in Washington. I do not know when the Prime Minister will next be in the United States but clearly she is unlikely to make a further visit in the immediate future. I am sorry to have to send you this disappointing news.

The President
Stanford University, California



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 December, 1980.

Commencement Address at Stanford University

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 15 December. She agrees that the invitation from Stanford University should be declined.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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This is a more attractive proposition than the letter allows. Since you will almost certainly be in Mexico a few days previously. Paul

15 December 1980

- (a) there will be considerable uncertainties until well into the Spring about the precise timing of the Mexico meeting; +
 - (b) you will already have made 2 major "American" speeches in the first half of the year ("Pilgrims" in January + the Donovan award in ? March.)
- Dear Michael,

Invitation to the Prime Minister to Deliver the Commencement Address at Stanford University on Sunday, 14 June 1981

Decline? with regret.

Stanford University in California have told our Embassy at Washington that they would like to invite the Prime Minister to deliver their commencement address on Sunday, 14 June 1981.

1/16/81

The possibility of a major speech on the West Coast is an attractive one. Given President-elect Reagan's connections with California, a visit to Stanford would now be more appropriate than hitherto. Stanford University is a prestigious institution and would provide a suitable platform for a speech by the Prime Minister.

On the other hand, an invitation for 14 June seems unfortunately to be a non-starter. The Prime Minister has indicated that she would wish to pay an early visit to the United States after President Reagan's inauguration, probably in February/March. The Economic Summit at Ottawa will take place on 20 and 21 July, which argues against the Prime Minister crossing the Atlantic to the United States six weeks previously. If you agree, therefore, we will instruct the Embassy to decline the invitation with regret on the grounds that the Prime Minister cannot be in the United States at that time.

Can't do it either
have 2 years.
no

Yours etc

Paul

(P Lever)
Private Secretary

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This world of course adds 2 days to any trip. But
one could return via Alaska.

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Prime Minister

Miss Stephens to write

es. 13/10

Hand - 8/x

PRIME MINISTER

I mentioned to you unofficially, but had better put on the record officially, the very strong plea that I received when I was recently in California from our Consuls General in San Francisco and Los Angeles that you should bear California in mind as a possible part of any future United States visit when it is planned.

They both emphasised what immense interest there would be if you were to go there and how much help you would bring to British business in that booming state.

I am copying this minute to Peter Carrington.

KJ

K J

7 October 1980

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