

PRIME MINISTER'S CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

If asked we can confirm that the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher will be having a family Christmas at Chequers. Mark and Carole will both be there.

The last time the Thatcher family spent Christmas together was in 1977 at the flat that they rent at Scotney Castle in Kent.

We need not be precise about timing but I understand that the Prime Minister and her family intend to be at Chequers from 23/31 December.

[For our own information: Carole Thatcher returns from Australia on 15 December and is staying until early new year. She will be joining the Prime Minister's party on the visit to Washington. Later on this week we shall probably let this be known and when we do we shall be able to confirm that the Prime Minister will be paying for Carole to travel on the RAF VC10 to and from the US].