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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister
Apex ABC&D
+ 2 lists of UK participants
attached?

19 October 1979

19.10

M.S.I.

Dear Michael, O.R.

Premier Hua Guofeng's visit: Attendance at Official Talks

The Prime Minister has agreed to hold two sessions of talks with Chinese Premier Hua Guofeng - from 3-4.55pm on Monday 29 October and from 4-5.10pm on Thursday 1 November. If the Prime Minister agrees, a Cultural Agreement with China and possibly an Air Services Agreement will be signed at the end of the second session (an outline programme is attached for ease of reference).

A The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary recommends that the first session of talks should cover international issues, leaving bilateral issues (such as trade, including defence sales, and Hong Kong) to be covered in the second, shorter session. If the Prime Minister is content with this, there will be no need for departments other than the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to be represented at the first session. But the Secretaries of State for Trade, Industry and Defence have all indicated that they would welcome the opportunity to attend the second session, when subjects of direct interest to their Departments are likely to be discussed.

I attach draft lists for attendance by the British side at both sessions which the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has seen and approved, together with a list supplied by the Chinese of the Ministers and other officials whom they would wish to attend.

On the British side Lord Carrington thinks that in addition to the British Ambassador to China, it would be useful to have at both sessions two officials directly concerned with Chinese affairs in the FCO (Mr Cortazzi, the Deputy Under-Secretary, and the Head of the Far Eastern Department). In addition the Prime Minister would, he thinks, find it helpful to have Mr Richards from the Embassy in Peking to monitor interpretation both at her tete-a-tete and at the two main sessions. (Mr Richards will also be available throughout the visit to interpret speeches, toasts and social conversation for the Prime Minister and others). We could also provide record-takers from the Department if you wished. ✓ *Yes. They will have 2 record-takers.*

The list of Chinese may be longer than the Prime Minister would wish. The Chinese will hope all those on the list can be included, but would probably be ready to reduce the list by one or two if necessary. I should be grateful to know the Prime Minister's views.

Chinese should limit their party

/I should

B. *6/14: is one side of the
Cabinet table + 2 sitting
behind.*

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W.C. D. I should also be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister is content that the ~~Cultural Agreement with China~~ (recently negotiated in Peking), and possibly the ~~Air Services Agreement~~ should be signed at the end of the second session. The Cultural Agreement sets out the parameters for future exchanges with China, and will facilitate their implementation. The Air Services Agreement, which was initialled in Peking in July, provides for the commencement of trunk route services between the UK and China, and the extension of regional services between Hong Kong and points in China. However, it is not yet clear whether negotiations will have made enough progress to make signature of the Air Services Agreement during Hua's visit appropriate. Unless the Prime Minister herself wishes to sign either of these agreements, the Cultural Agreement could most appropriately be signed by Lord Carrington and Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua, and the Air Services Agreement by Mr Nott and Vice Premier Yu Qiuli, in the presence of the Prime Minister and Premier Hua, and the senior officials who have been directly involved in the negotiations.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Secretaries of State for Trade, Industry and Defence, and to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 October 1979

Premier Hua Guofeng's visit: Attendance at Official Talks

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 19 October on this subject.

The Prime Minister agrees that:-

- (a) the agendas for the talks should be as proposed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary;
- (b) the UK participation in the talks should be as listed in the first two enclosures to your letter;
- (c) the Department should provide a record taker for each plenary session;
- (d) the Chinese party for the plenary sessions should be limited to a total of 14;
- (e) the Agreements referred to in your letter should be signed at the end of the second session; and
- (f) the Agreements should be signed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and by the Secretary of State for Trade.

I am sending copies of this letter to Brian Norbury (Ministry of Defence), Ian Ellison (Department of Industry), Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

M. O. D. B. ALEXANDER

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.