



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Agree to despatch of telegram
as amended?

London SW1A 2AH

We will ensure that the balance
is correct tomorrow, before the
telegram goes.

2 February 1982

Dear John,

A.F.C. - 2

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Invitation to President Reagan

We have been in touch about the American announcement that President Reagan is to visit Paris and Rome when he comes to Europe for the Economic and NATO Summits in June. We have been instructing Sir Nicholas Henderson to press vigorously for the President to visit the UK while he is in Europe on the basis of the invitation extended to him last year by the Prime Minister and the subsequent more formal invitation by The Queen to spend two days as Her guest at Windsor on 7 and 8 June.

As you know, at Sir Nicholas Henderson's suggestion we had considered the possibility of trying to arrange for the NATO Summit to be held in London rather than in Brussels as a way of attracting President Reagan to this country. Over the weekend it seemed that the consensus in Washington as well as in Europe was settling, however, upon Brussels as the site of the Summit. Since we could see force in the view, also expressed to us by the Ministry of Defence, that a Summit would have more impact on European public opinion if it were held on the Continent of Europe, we were disposed to drop the idea of getting the Summit to London while continuing to press for the President to pay a bilateral visit. Sir Nicholas Henderson was aware of these thoughts when he had the conversations in the White House recorded in Washington tel no 306 (attached).

This conversation demonstrates that the Americans have now focussed on the prospect of a visit to Windsor and are keen on it. This is good news and we must try to bring the Americans to a positive decision as soon as possible. On the other hand, Washington telnos 316 and 323 indicate that the Americans have come to see particular advantage in switching the Summit from Brussels to London. They maintain that this would give them a good excuse for accepting an invitation to the UK while turning down a similar invitation to the President to visit Bonn.

We have consulted Lord Carrington, whose view is that our main objective must be to have President Reagan visit this country in June and that, if this means offering London as the site for the NATO Summit, we should be ready to do that. I therefore attach a draft telegram to Washington to which we would be grateful for the Prime Minister's agreement.

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
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If the idea finds favour of an address to the joint Houses of Parliament, then it will also be necessary at some point to consult the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Great Chamberlain and the Speaker. As you will see, our draft telegram is discreet on this point because we do not think that we should let the Ambassador arouse US expectations until we are sure that this idea is feasible.

I am copying this letter to Sir Philip Moore, Brian Norbury (MOD) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

cc: Sir P Moore, Buckingham Palace
PS/Sir F Cooper, MOD
PS/Sir Robert Armstrong, Cabinet Office

OUT TELEGRAM

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7 TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
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10 INFO MANILA (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY), UKDEL NATO
11 YOUR TEL NOS 306, 316 AND 323: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT
12 1. Your latest conversations with Deaver and Eagleburger
13 indicate that the Americans have at last focussed on the
14 advantages and attraction of a visit by President Reagan this
15 summer to Windsor and that we have a much better chance than
16 we had feared of bringing them to an early positive decision.
17 Our priority objective is to get President Reagan to London
18 and if that means offering London for the NATO Summit then we
19 are certainly prepared to do so. Administratively and
20 financially this will be a little more difficult to arrange
21 than in 1977 when the facilities were already in place. In
22 speaking to the Americans, however, you should make it clear
23 that our offer to be host to the Summit is on the express
24 understanding that President Reagan would then indeed come to
25 Windsor as invited by The Queen.
2. The programme could be along the lines sketched out *below*.

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File number SIR M PALLISER'S		Dept OFFICE	Distribution Limited Hd/NAD Hd/Defence Dept Hd/WED PS PS/LPS PS/Mr Luce PS/PUS Mr Day Mr Ure D J Wright, Cabinet Office
Drafted by (Block capitals) R A Burns			
Telephone number 233 5142			
Authorised for despatch			
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2 The Queen could receive the President, but without ceremony,
3 on the Sunday evening. Monday morning could be left free for
4 relaxation, including riding (with The Queen) in Windsor Park
5 and the afternoon could be left free for briefing for the NATO
6 Summit, with a State Banquet in the evening. The Prime
7 Minister would like to entertain the President on behalf of
8 Her Majesty's Government, ^{and hold talks with him} at some point; ^{though the precise timing will} ~~this could be luncheon~~
9 ~~on the Tuesday, preceded perhaps by talks (at Chequers/at~~
10 ~~No 10). On the~~ ^{Tuesday} afternoon there could be a major public
11 appearance. We are looking at the various possibilities. For
12 example the Lord Mayor and Corporation traditionally receive
13 The Queen's guests in State at Guildhall and would wish to do
14 so this time if there were an opportunity. Or it might be
15 possible to arrange an address to both Houses of Parliament
16 in Westminster Hall (this could be followed by some form of
17 return hospitality, though this is not necessary). Either
18 occasion would provide an ^{opportunity} ~~occasion~~ for a major televised
19 speech. But Westminster Hall in particular will require quite
20 a bit of consultation at this end and you should be careful
21 not to raise any excessive hopes. Travel between Windsor and
22 Buckingham Palace can easily be arranged by helicopter for
23 the President and his principal advisers. But large numbers of
24 helicopters for the entourage could create a problem which
25 would need further examination.
26 3. As for numbers (paragraph 6 of your tel no 306) Windsor
27 could certainly accommodate the sort of number of principals
28 Deaver mentioned. Security and support staff would need
29 looking at but Windsor probably affords greater scope in this
30 respect than Buckingham Palace. You should therefore reassure
31 Deaver on this score. Journalists would as you supposed have
32 to be accommodated separately and both London and Windsor
33 hotels tend to be full in June, but this problem is also
34 surmountable.

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4. On a point of clarification, if the NATO Summit takes place in London, we are working on the assumption that the President would spend Sunday and Monday and possibly Tuesday nights at Windsor, and move into Winfield House (or a hotel) for the NATO Summit itself. It does not seem to make sense at first glance for the President to try and do the Summit from Windsor.

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 306 OF 1 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE MANILA (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)

MY TELNO 303: POSSIBLE VISIT OF PRESIDENT REAGAN TO THE U.K.

1. DEEVER GOT INTO TOUCH WITH ME FIRST THING THIS MORNING AND ASKED TO COME AND SEE ME, WHICH HE HAS JUST DONE.

2. HE SAID THAT HE HAD HAD SOME DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING OUR TALK OVER THE WEEKEND ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT TO ENGLAND. IT WOULD BE IDEAL IF THE NATO SUMMIT COULD BE HELD IN LONDON BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT COULD THEN GO THERE WITHOUT INCITING ENVY IN OTHER COUNTRIES. HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GO TRAVELLING TO MANY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. I SAID THAT, ON THE BASIS OF ADVANCE INFORMATION GIVEN ME, I DID NOT THINK THAT IT WOULD BE AT ALL EASY TO HAVE THE NATO SUMMIT IN LONDON. MANY COUNTRIES WERE ASSUMING THAT IT WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE IN BRUSSELS. THEY WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO SEE THE PRESIDENT THERE AT THE NATO HEADQUARTERS RATHER THAN IN ONE COUNTRY'S CAPITAL.

4. DEEVER REPLIED THAT WE MUST THEN LOOK AT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENT GOING TO LONDON IN THE GAP BETWEEN THE END OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT ON SUNDAY 6 JUNE AND THE START OF THE NATO SUMMIT ON WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE. HE WOULD ONLY BE SPENDING A NUMBER OF HOURS IN ROME. HE DID NOT INTEND STAYING THE NIGHT THERE. I SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT FLY TO LONDON ON THE EVENING OF SUNDAY 6TH, HAVING VISITED ROME THAT AFTERNOON. HE WOULD THEN PROCEED FROM THE AIRPORT TO WINDSOR CASTLE, WHICH WAS A VERY SHORT DISTANCE. HE COULD SPEND A QUIET EVENING WITH HER MAJESTY. HE COULD PLAN TO FLY ON TO BRUSSELS ON THE WEDNESDAY. THIS WOULD GIVE HIM TWO FURTHER NIGHTS AT WINDSOR CASTLE.

5. DEEVER ASKED ME WHAT SORT OF PROGRAMME I THOUGHT WOULD BE SUITABLE. IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE TIME TO BE BRIEFED ON THE FORTHCOMING NATO MEETING. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE SOME RELAXATION. HE REALISED THAT HE WOULD NEED TO MAKE SOME SUITABLE PUBLIC APPEARANCE. I SAID THAT ON A PURELY PERSONAL BASIS I THOUGHT THAT HE MIGHT TAKE MONDAY MORNING EASILY AND GO FOR A RIDE IN WINDSOR GREAT PARK. DEEVER ASKED EAGERLY WHETHER HER MAJESTY WOULD BE THINKING OF RIDING WITH THE PRESIDENT. ON MONDAY EVENING I THOUGHT THAT THERE MIGHT BE A DANQUET GIVEN BY HER MAJESTY EITHER AT WINDSOR CASTLE OR BUCKINGHAM PALACE. THEN ON THE TUESDAY IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD MAKE SOME PUBLIC SPEECH. I DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO REPEAT THE OCCASION OF A JOINT MEETING OF PARLIAMENT IN ST STEPHEN'S HALL

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SUCH AS THAT ADDRESSED BY DE GAULLE JUST OVER 20 YEARS AGO. NOR DID I KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO TELEVISE SUCH A SESSION. DEAVER ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT DO A RECEPTION AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AFTER SOME SUCH APPEARANCE BUT HE DID NOT THINK THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE A DINNER AT THE EMBASSY, THOUGH NO DOUBT THE US AMBASSADOR WOULD PRESS FOR ONE.

6. DEAVER ASKED WHETHER THE QUEEN WOULD BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE SIZE OF THE PARTY THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE WITH HIM. THE NUMBERS ALONGSIDE HIM DID NOT HAVE TO BE ALL THAT EXORBITANT. NEVERTHELESS HE WOULD REQUIRE 5 OR 6 ROOMS IN ADDITION TO THE ONE FOR MRS REAGAN AND HIMSELF. THERE WOULD ALSO OF COURSE BE A LARGE SECURITY FOLLOWING. AS FOR THE JOURNALISTS, THEY WOULD OF COURSE BE THERE IN HUNDREDS BUT DEAVER ASSUMED THEY COULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE TOWN OF WINDSOR OR EVEN IN LONDON. I TOLD HIM THAT LONDON REALLY WAS A VERY EASY DISTANCE FROM WINDSOR CASTLE. DEAVER SAID THAT HE ASSUMED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO GO BETWEEN WINDSOR CASTLE AND LONDON, WHETHER TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE OR WINFIELD HOUSE, BY HELICOPTER.

7. I SPOKE AGAIN ABOUT THE VALUE TO THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF OF A VISIT OF THIS KIND. HE HAD NOT DONE MUCH TRAVELLING AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GET ACROSS TO A WIDER BODY OF OPINION. DEAVER SAID HE ENTIRELY AGREED. HE VERY MUCH LIKED THE IDEAS WE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING AND HE WOULD GO INTO THEM AGAIN WITH THOSE CONCERNED AND GET INTO TOUCH WITH ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

8. I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANYTHING FURTHER FOR YOU TO DO AT THIS STAGE. WITH ANY LUCK WE WILL GET THE VISIT TO THE UK EVEN WITHOUT HAVING THE NATO SUMMIT THERE, THOUGH I SUSPECT THAT AL HAIG MAY WELL POINT OUT THAT THIS COULD CAUSE TROUBLE WITH THE GERMANS. I SENSE THAT THE WHITE HOUSE ARE AT LAST QUITE FIRED BY THE IDEA OF GOING TO LONDON. IF YOU CAN GIVE ME SOME IDEA OF WHETHER A MEETING OF PARLIAMENT IN ST STEPHEN'S HALL WOULD BE POSSIBLE OR NOT, THAT WOULD BE USEFUL, HOWEVER TENTATIVE YOUR VIEW.

HENDERSON

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PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS ✓
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