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PRIME MINISTER

Visit of Premier Hua

You agreed in August a programme for your involvement with the visit of Premier Hua to the United Kingdom at the end of October and beginning of November. I attach Mr. Cartledge's minute on this subject.

Premier Hua has now asked whether there will be any objection to his advancing the timing of his visit by one day. This is to enable him to take up an invitation to visit Italy after his visit to this country. The French and Germans have already agreed to similar requests.

The changes which the new timing would involve in the attached programme would be as follows:-

a) Arrival

Premier Hua will be arriving on Sunday 28 October. You had earlier agreed to meet him at the helicopter pad near Kensington Palace Gardens. Since you will be at Chequers on Sunday you may think, if you are still ready to meet him, that it would be convenient to do so at Heathrow. The Chinese, who very much hope that you will be able to meet the Premier, will be prepared to adjust the arrival time to the morning or afternoon to suit your convenience.* (You could make the journey to and from Chequers by helicopter.) Would you be ready to meet Premier Hua?

* If it were in the late afternoon you would return to Downing Street from Heathrow.

b) Talks

The earlier arrival of the Premier will make it possible to bring forward your first session of talks with him from Tuesday afternoon to Monday afternoon. Since this will avoid the necessity of going straight into the talks from Questions and since Monday afternoon is at present free in your diary, the change would seem to be a sensible one. The talks might be from 1500-1700, leaving an hour's break

Yes - at whatever is the most convenient current time. Heathrow is less of a problem.

Agreed not

/before

before your reception for Premier Hua at the Banqueting House. Do you agree? ✓

c) Departure

Premier Hua will now be leaving on the morning of Saturday 3 November instead of Monday 5 November. It would, again, be appreciated by the Chinese if you could bid the Premier goodbye on his departure from central London. You will be in London the previous evening for the Chinese return dinner. You have at present no engagements on the Saturday. If you greet Premier Hua on his arrival it will be less important to see him off but would you none-the-less be prepared to do so?

Yes out.

Prints

I also attach the programme for the rest of the visit & use you should like to glance at it.

17 September 1979

CONFIDENTIAL



cc Tby
Trade
Twp

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 September 1979

VISIT OF PREMIER HUA GUOFENG

You wrote to me on 14 September about the changes in Premier Hua's programme.

The Prime Minister sees no difficulty in the earlier timing for the visit that the Chinese have proposed. She would be happy to meet Premier Hua at the helicopter pad in Kensington Palace Gardens if the Chinese are content for Premier Hua's arrival to take place in the late afternoon. A convenient time might be 1800 hours. If the Chinese, on reflection, would prefer a significantly earlier arrival time, it might be easier for the Prime Minister to meet him at Heathrow.

The Prime Minister welcomes the proposal to bring forward the first session of talks from Tuesday to Monday afternoon. The timings proposed in the outline programme enclosed with your letter, ie 1500 to 1700, would seem to suit well.

The Prime Minister will be happy to bid Premier Hua farewell on the morning of Saturday 3 November, ~~and~~ again at Kensington Palace Gardens.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

A handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'R.L.', written in blue ink.

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

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