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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 March 1982

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Dear John,

Visit of President Reagan

We have had further discussions with the American Embassy about the programme for the visit of President and Mrs Reagan. This letter is to bring you up-to-date and ask for the Prime Minister's views about the following points:

(a) Arrival

The Duke of Edinburgh will meet President and Mrs Reagan at Heathrow. It has already been suggested in your recent conversation with Roger du Boulay that it would be best for the Prime Minister (and those members of the Government whom she would like to accompany her) to participate in the arrival ceremonies at the airport. The Duke of Edinburgh will escort President and Mrs Reagan to Windsor. The Prime Minister would take leave at Heathrow. There is one problem. The Americans, and, I believe, the Prime Minister, are keen that the President should make a brief statement to the press on his arrival.

The Americans will be guided by what we decide and I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister feels that we should take this further with the Palace.

(b) Address in the Palace of Westminster

This is being dealt with separately.

(c) Speaker's Reception

We have considered the suggestion that the Address should be followed by a Speaker's Reception as has happened on earlier similar occasions. However, given the time factor we and the Lord Chamberlain's Office consider that unless the Prime Minister and Speaker have any strong feelings about the matter, it would be best on this occasion not to hold a reception. The President and Mrs Reagan could then depart quickly from Westminster for lunch at Winfield House.

(d) Lunch at Winfield House

The Americans want this to be a large affair, somewhat on the lines of a return banquet. They have, however, been

/persuaded



persuaded that this would be inappropriate, before The Queen's Banquet at Windsor. The Queen would not attend, nor would members of the Royal Family. Parliamentary business probably dictates that the Prime Minister would also be unable to attend. Can you confirm this? The Americans would still like to invite members of the Government and others who would not get into the Windsor Banquet or the Prime Minister's luncheon. We are considering this further.

(e) Speech by Prime Minister

We are assuming that the President will make an important speech. It is likely that he will talk about, inter alia, US-British solidarity within the NATO Alliance and the closeness of Anglo-American relations in general. It is for consideration whether in the course of the visit a reciprocal statement of British policy covering similar ground should be made and, if so, when. The speech by The Queen at the State Banquet will provide one opportunity but there are obvious constraints on a Royal speech which would be greater if the controversy surrounding the visit increases. On present plans the most suitable occasions for a Governmental speech would be either luncheon at 10 Downing Street on 9 June or possibly the US Ambassador's luncheon on 8 June if the Prime Minister were able to attend. Even if the Prime Minister's speech at the No 10 luncheon could not be televised, the release of the text to the press would make the impact we seek. We cannot see where in the programme a televised speech by the Prime Minister could be easily fitted in.

(f) Talks

On the basis of our earlier soundings we have provisionally entered talks with the Prime Minister at No 10 Downing Street for 11.00 am. There is no insurmountable obstacle to starting earlier, if required, and I should be grateful if you could confirm the Prime Minister's wishes in this respect and also that the luncheon should be arranged for 12.30 assuming, as seems likely, that departure remains fixed for 14.30. It would be useful to know what form the Prime Minister would like the talks to take. If there is sufficient time, Lord Carrington recommends that the Prime Minister should begin with a tete-à-tete followed by a wider session including the Secretary of State and Mr Haig. Lord Carrington intends to propose to Mr Haig that they should have a separate working meeting on Tuesday 8 June. We do not at this stage know the composition of the American party, but could review participation when this is clearer.

(g) Departure

We do not yet know whether The Queen will say farewell to President and Mrs Reagan when they leave Windsor Castle on the morning of 9 June or at Buckingham Palace whence they leave for

/London



London Airport by helicopter after the Prime Minister's luncheon. As you know, the normal protocol at the end of a visit is for a relatively low key departure with the Lord Chamberlain bidding farewell on behalf of The Queen at the airport and the Special Representative of the Secretary of State bidding farewell on behalf of Her Majesty's Government. On this occasion however the Prime Minister might wish to say farewell personally at the airport. There is an obvious case for a higher level farewell than usual on the Government's side. It would be possible to arrange for the President and the Prime Minister to make brief public statements before leaving.

I attach a copy of the outline programme as it currently stands. Timings are very approximate.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J.E. Holmes', written in a cursive style.

(J.E. Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St

VISIT OF PRESIDENT REAGAN7 - 9 June 1982Outline Programme
(as at 8th March 1982)

Note: All timings are estimated

Monday 7th June

4.30 pm Arrive Heathrow
 4.40 pm Depart Heathrow by helicopter
 4.50 pm Arrive East Lawn, Windsor Home Park
 4.55 pm Enter Windsor Castle
 8.00 pm Informal Dinner

Tuesday 8th June

9.30 am Riding
 11.00 am Depart Windsor by helicopter
 11.25 am Arrive Buckingham Palace and depart by car
 for Westminster Abbey
 11.30 am Arrive West Door, Westminster Abbey
 lay wreath on Tomb of the Unknown Warrior
 11.50 am Depart on foot from Poets Corner Door
 for Westminster Hall
 12. Noon Address Lords and Commons in Palace of Westminster
 12.30 pm Depart by car for Buckingham Palace
 12.35 pm Arrive Buckingham Palace and depart by car or
 helicopter for Winfield House
 12.40 pm Arrive Winfield House
 1.15 pm Lunch Winfield House
 2.45 pm Meeting with selected Press Representatives -
 Winfield House
 3.45 pm Depart Winfield House by helicopter for either visit to
 Arrive (a) Skillcentre, Slough or
 (b) Bisham Sports Centre Nr Marlow or
 (c) College of Agriculture Burchetts Green or
 (d) Walkabout in Windsor, Datchet or Bray.

/Wednesday

Wednesday 9th June

10.30 am Depart Windsor Castle by helicopter
10.55 am Arrive Buckingham Palace and depart by car
for No. 10 Downing Street
11.00 am Talks with Prime Minister at No. 10 Downing Street
12.30 Lunch at No. 10 Downing Street
1.55 pm Depart No. 10 Downing Street by car for
Buckingham Palace
2.00 pm Depart by helicopter for Heathrow
2.20 pm Arrive Heathrow
2.30 pm Depart for Bonn

NOTE: Separate programme for Mrs Reagan
am 8th June and am 9th June.

PROGRAMME FOR MRS REAGAN

Tuesday 8th June

between 9.30 - 11 am

Visit to St George's Chapel, Windsor

Thereafter with President

Wednesday 9th June

10.30

Travel with President to Buckingham Palace

11.15 - 12.15

Visit: either a primary school or a
special school

Bisham Sports Centre (near Marlow but in Berkshire). Sponsored by Sports Council

(a) Very impressive. Beautiful setting surrounding the old Abbey with superb indoor stadium used by surrounding schools and many professional teams (football, cricket, etc. including foreigners.

(b) Could easily meet a number of people, mostly young British athletes.

(c) Good security.

(d) Helicopter landing site should present no problem. Ten minutes from Windsor.

College of Agriculture, Burchetts Green

(a) Beautiful house.

(b) Said to be of world renown and very interesting to anybody who is interested in agriculture.

(c) Staff and students number about 500 and he could be given an opportunity to talk to a large number of them.

Skillcentre, Slough.
(Opened by the Duke of Edinburgh on 24th November 1981)

(a) Good workshops for training young people who would otherwise be unemployed. Sponsored and supported by industry.

(b) Would present an excellent opportunity for the President to talk to young artisans and potential craftsmen.

(c) No security problem - quite small but interesting.

(d) Landing site for helicopter might be a problem but I think this could be solved. Less than 5 minutes from Windsor.

- This comes under
the Manpower Services
Commission.