



1) they want a Guard of Honour at. Shall now - I will get the details.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

(1)

2 October 1979

Prime Minister

M Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

I find it extraordinary that there is no helicopter landing spot in Central London where one can have a Guard of Honour. But such appears to be the case. Would you prefer the spectacle of a Guard of Honour or of a helicopter arrival?

Dear Richard

Agree A, B, C + manuscript note at D?

Prints 3/4

VISIT OF PREMIER HUA - 28 OCTOBER TO 3 NOVEMBER

Items on Programme affecting the Prime Minister

Arrival - Sunday 28 October

The present plans are that Premier Hua will arrive at London Airport South Side by special aircraft at 4.00 pm, transfer immediately into a helicopter, arriving at Kensington Palace at 4.30 pm, where he will be met by the Prime Minister.

This arrangement was based on the assumption that there would be no Guard of Honour and that the provision of helicopters made it easier to fudge the issue. The Ministry of Defence have now said (not yet confirmed in writing) that they wish to provide a Guard of Honour, but that Kensington Palace's grounds are not really suitable, particularly at the end of October, when it is quite likely to be wet and muddy under foot. There is no doubt that a more spectacular ceremony, given a Guard of Honour, could be arranged at London Airport South Side. The layout allows for better press coverage and some "public" who would in fact be members of the Chinese community in the UK. The Chinese Embassy themselves are very keen to allow their citizens to witness the arrival.

A | If the Prime Minister were agreeable the arrival could still take place at 4.30 pm, the Prime Minister arriving at South Side (?by helicopter from Chequers) at 4.25 pm. The Chinese would then be taken to London by car with a motorcycle escort. There would be no need for the Prime Minister to accompany Premier Hua in the car, since this is not our normal practice and this can be explained to the Chinese.

First Session of Talks - Monday 29 October

Premier Hua is due to arrive at No 10 at 3.00 pm for a tête-a-tête talks. Will the Prime Minister wish to greet him outside the door with a photocall? I take it that those not taking part in these talks should arrive at No 10 20 minutes later for the First Plenary Session.

Yes

/Prime Minister's





Prime Minister's Reception - Monday 29 October

B ) It has now been found possible to put the Reception back to 5.45 pm which will give a little longer after the talks which finish at 5.00 pm. The Prime Minister might like to use the RUSI entrance when arriving at the Banqueting House, given the very large number of guests who will be arriving at the main entrance.

Prime Minister's Dinner - Tuesday 30 October

b ( The dinner is scheduled for 7.45 pm for 8.00 pm. It would be helpful to have details of how the Prime Minister would like to receive the Chinese guests and in particular whether they should all arrive together. *Meet at the Premier at the front door + then come upstairs. He should arrive 5 minutes early. ? Speed up*

2nd Plenary Session - Thursday 1 November (4.00 pm - 5.30 pm)

c ( There will be at least one agreement (Cultural Agreement) to be signed at the end of this session. I have tentatively allowed 20 minutes for this which would mean ending the session at 5.10 pm. The party could then move into the White Drawing Room, where the Agreement would be signed by the two Foreign Ministers. Would you confirm if this is agreeable. *Speed.*

Return Dinner by the Chinese - Friday 2 November

We have no details yet about this, but it seems likely that it will take place at the residence of the Chinese Ambassador (NW11).

*Yours etc*  
*Patricia Pascale*

P T Metcalfe (Miss)  
Protocol and Conference  
Department



TOP  
China

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

8 October 1979

VISIT OF PREMIER HUA

I have already given you on the telephone the answers to the questions raised in your letter to me of 2 October, but it may be helpful if I record them in writing.

The Prime Minister would be prepared to go to Heathrow to greet Premier Hua at 1630 on Sunday 28 October. I agree that those attending the first plenary session should arrive at No. 10 at 3.20 pm. The Prime Minister will use the RUSI entrance when arriving at the Banqueting House for the reception. The Prime Minister would like to greet Premier Hua at the Front Door and then move upstairs. He should arrive five minutes before the rest of the Chinese party. The Prime Minister agrees that the second plenary session should end at 5.10 pm and that 20 minutes should be allowed for the signing of the Cultural Agreement.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Miss P.T. Metcalfe,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

TGR