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BF 9-9-80

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 August 1980

Andrew Burns wrote to me on 27 August about the proposed visit to the United Kingdom by Pope John Paul II in 1982. As you will know, Cardinal Hume proposes to announce this on Sunday 31 August, and our Press Office have been in touch with News Department about our reaction to this. The Prime Minister is content with the line proposed, subject only to deletion of the idea that the Government was "consulted" about the invitation. I have discussed this point with Andrew Burns.

9/9/80
The Prime Minister has commented that we shall be asked whether she will see the Pope. She feels that the Government should plan a reception or dinner, or whatever form of entertainment the Pope would find acceptable. I would be grateful for advice as to what might be appropriate, and for urgent advice as to how we might handle questions about a meeting with the Prime Minister when the public announcement is made.

I am sending copies of this letter to Andrew Burns (Sir Michael Palliser's Office), Stephen Boys-Smith (Home Office), John Wilson (Scottish Office), Martin Rolfe (Welsh Office), Roy Harrington (Northern Ireland Office) and Barry Hilton (Cabinet Office).

M. A. PATTISON

G.G.H. Walden, Esq.,
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