



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 December 1981

Prime Minister

It is rather odd to ask the Hungarians provide the interpreter. but it would be difficult and expensive for us to get a good one.

2. Agree to the Hungarians doing it?

A.J.C. 14/12

Dear John

Visit of the Hungarian Foreign Minister: Interpretation

Caroline Ryder's letter of 5 November confirmed that the Hungarian Foreign Minister will call on the Prime Minister at 1700 hrs on Wednesday 13 January.

Mr Puja, who speaks no English, will be accompanied by his official interpreter, Dr Banlaki, who until recently was posted in London and speaks fluent English. We would have great difficulty in providing adequately qualified interpreters of comparable fluency. In view of the known reliability of Dr Banlaki's interpretation, we should prefer to rely on him for Mr Puja's talks in the FCO and elsewhere during his visit. Our Ambassador in Budapest, who has some Hungarian, will be present throughout the programme and is confident that he will be able to detect any serious errors of interpretation. Similar arrangements, similarly monitored by Mr Cartledge, proved perfectly satisfactory during Lord Carrington's visit to Hungary last year.

I should be grateful for your confirmation that you have no objection to this course for Mr Puja's talks with the Prime Minister on 13 January.

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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*Hungary*

*Lee*

15 December 1981

VISIT OF THE HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER: INTER-  
PRETATION

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The Prime Minister agrees to the interpretation arrangements set out in your letter of 14 December.

E. J. COLES

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Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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