

R WHITMORE

Mr Colby spoke to Mr Whitmore. I have heard about the Archbishop's  
reputation.  
To see  
MJ Whitmore CVP. 24/12. This is a copy. The original has been extracted  
and closed, 40 years.  
Thank you.  
On XI, we can consider the future of the Vatican when we get the FCO's

The Pope's Visit

Proposed. I think we had the meeting and in a good way.  
I was on 7/12/81. \*~~~~~\*

I attended a meeting yesterday which Mr du Boulay of the FCO held with some of his officials and with Monsignor Brown, who is in charge under Cardinal Hume of the arrangements for the English part of the Pope's visit.

You may like to be aware of two things:

(1) Mr du Boulay gave Monsignor Brown a robust message

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\*~~~~~\* with the comment that if this were not better handled a good opportunity could be missed. I doubt if poor Monsignor Brown can do very much about this, as the issue is now at Rome for a decision. According to du Boulay, the reason why Roman officials are making such heavy weather of this is a fear of precedent, ie, that on other overseas visits the Pope might, if he had lunched with one Head of State, find it difficult to refuse invitations which might be embarrassing.

(2) There was some discussion of the various points during the visit when the Government might wish to be represented, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will be putting forward proposals to us for the Prime Minister's decision. It now looks as if the Pope will arrive at Gatwick and go from there by rail to Victoria; the FCO recommendation will be for a senior Minister to be at Gatwick and to make a short speech of welcome on behalf of the Government. Perhaps, if he is willing, the Lord Chancellor might be a good choice for this?

The Home Office, who were at yesterday's meeting, continued to be worried about the timing of the announcement about up-grading diplomatic relations with the Vatican, \*~~~~~\*

\*~~~~~\* Nothing for us to do, I think, until the Foreign Secretary makes his recommendation about this.

\*~\* Passages deleted and closed, 40 year, CVP.  
under FOI Exemptions.

23 December 1981

Wayland  
18 October 2011