

The Pope's Visit

The Prime Minister discussed today with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary the arrangements for Ministers in connection with the Pope's visit, as described in the FCO letter of 4 March.

The Prime Minister agreed that Lord Carrington should meet the Pope at Gatwick on behalf of the Government (rather than the Lord Chancellor, whose presence at Gatwick would be out of the ordinary).

The Prime Minister said that she did not propose to attend the service at Canterbury Cathedral on 29 May, and Lord Carrington said that he would not be doing so either. It was noted that both the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary planned to attend, and this seemed a good Government "presence".

The Prime Minister said that her one worry over not going to Canterbury Cathedral was any suggestion which could arise that she was snubbing the Pope; there might not be any pictures of her and the Pope together, because the Roman Catholic authorities seemed to be making difficulties about photographs of them both together at the Reception to be held at Cardinal Hume's house on the evening of 29 May. Mr Whitmore felt that we could continue to work away on this, to secure photographs if possible.

The Prime Minister agreed Lord Carrington's proposals for the involvement of the Secretaries of State for Wales and Scotland.

Lord Carrington said that he felt it would be most injudicious for any member of the Royal Family or senior Government Minister who attended the Canterbury Cathedral service to take part in the lighting of candles in the Cathedral's Chapel of 20th Century Martyrs; the Prime Minister agreed.

Lord Carrington asked whether protocol required Cardinal Casaroli to call on him at some stage during the Papal visit.

(N.B. I have telephoned Lambeth Palace (Bishop Hook) today, to

/let them

*Duke of Norfolk will greet him on behalf of The Queen.*

*Sir Cannydd Traherne, hd.-wr. of Glamorgan will bid Pope farewell in Cardiff, on behalf of The Queen.*

let them know that the Prime Minister would not be able to accept a formal invitation from the Archbishop to the Canterbury Cathedral service.)

CVP.

15 March 1982