

Prime Minister

Are you ready to
see the Archbishop?

Lambeth Palace, SE1 7JU.

March 24th

MM
25th 82

Yes not

Dear Prime Minister,

I hope you
will forgive a private and
strictly confidential letter as a
result of an exchange between
a member of your staff and
mine on the question of your
attendance at Canterbury on
May 29th for the Papal visit
there.

I recognize the difficulties and
sensitivities but for that very
reason wonder if I could question

The wisdom of your meeting
the Pope only in the context
of a party at the Cardinal's
house, and not in the context
of the reception of the Pope
by the Established Church.

It is obvious that some
very important issues are raised
by this historic visit which could
do much good or much harm
towards our endeavours for a more
cohesive society. In particular
it is very desirable that the
Canterbury occasion be seen as
a national and not just an
ecclesiastical event — otherwise

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there will be serious questions about
the Establishment and how far the
Established Church has the support
of Crown and Government. It
will be an indication of whether
the Church of England has simply
become one of a number of
competing sects and of no more
significance to the Government than
the Roman Catholic Church.

May I say that I should
value an opportunity to discuss
the issues privately with you if
you were able to spare half

an hour (I promise no more!)
in the course of the next week
or so

Yours very sincerely
+ Robert Cantrow