

Magyar Országos Levéltár (MOL) – Hungarian National Archive

KÜM TŰK 1984, IV. fej., ANGLIA, 30. doboz

6-13: "Konceptióterv M. Thatcher brit miniszterelnök asszony hivatalos magyarországi látogatásához./1984.II. 2-4./" 0080/1 – Conceptual Plan for the Official Visit to Hungary of M. Thatcher, British Prime Minister /2-4. 02. 1984./

Handwritten notes inside the cover:

Cr. [*Comrade*] Iván we ask you to act concerning the press plan of chapter VI. [*Other handwritten note next to this: "Has been done." Ábriné I. E.*]

Protocol Dep. – we ask for the booking of the visit and starting to make the necessary steps.

We wish to get back the file immediately!

Ábriné 1/4.

1 copy in the ref. doc. volume

Ábriné 2/14

Page 1

1 copy made

Foreign Office

0080/1/1984

Strictly confidential!

Conceptual plan

MARGARET THATCHER

British prime minister's official visit to Hungary.

2-4 February 1984.

I.

Antecedents

Comrade György Lázár invited the British prime minister to visit Hungary in 1975. We have reminded prime minister Mrs Thatcher several times of this invitation, last time it was mentioned by Comrade József Marjai deputy prime minister, upon their meeting in London in March 1983, then by János Kádár and Comrade György Lázár upon Geoffrey Howe's visit to Budapest in September 1983.

Bullard, British Deputy Under-Secretary of State officially informed our ambassador in London on the 4th November 1983 that prime minister Thatcher wishes to visit Hungary at the beginning of

year 1984. After our positive response Mrs Thatcher officially announced this in her speech made on the 14th November 1983. After mutual consultation we fixed the date of meeting to be 2-4 February 1984.

With this meeting such a high-level contact is going to take place which was created 38 years before, when with the leadership of the then prime minister Ferenc Nagy a Hungarian government delegation /Rákosi, Ries, Gyöngyösi/ travelled to Great Britain after having visited the USA.

Page 2

II.

Our political goals

In the last years the Anglo-Hungarian relations were free from political problems and they have steadily progressed. The different levels of foreign consultations became regular and meetings of Foreign Secretaries became more frequent. We maintained the dialogue and managed to conserve those achievements which had been reached in the years of detente.

In the international situation which has become more intensified and complex after the initiation of missile deployment we try to maintain dialogue, to improve the situation according to our humble opportunities, next to the enforcement of our national interests to represent our foreign policies consulted with our allies.

Goal of the present meeting:

- With the realisation of the visit we raise our relations to the highest levels so far. With the acceptance of the prime minister we wish to advance the further progress of our relations.
- By stating our standpoint let's contribute to the vindication of the socialist countries' efforts, to the improvement of East-West relation. Let's point out the USA's negative role in the suspension of the Geneva talks, NATO's responsibility concerning missile deployment and with this the major and worrying escalation of European tension.
- Let's utilize the situation to sound out whether there are any ideas, plans on the British or the Western alliance's side to resolve the remarkable tension, to move from the impasse.
- At the same time let's absolutely try not to create a break in our bilateral relations, what is more – according to our opportunities – let's try to establish their improvement with this high-level meeting, mainly on the economic, monetary ground.

Page 3

III.

The expected goals of the English part:

- The British part did not realise the prime ministerial visit for nine years. That this takes place has a not small demonstrative goal; in this way they wish to prove their ability to maintain the dialogue, to demonstrate that in spite of missile deployment there is an opportunity to maintain relationship with certain socialist countries, what is more, to raise the level of it;
- they will state the British standpoint concerning more important international questions, mainly about the "right and valid" decision of the Western alliance concerning missile deployment, that the British government and their partners are "not guilty";
- they wish to use the visit to decrease the importance of missile deployment and to compensate political tension raised by the deployment;
- to express their willingness to improve Eastern-Western relations according to their own terms and ideas;
- they will evaluate positively our bilateral relations. They will show peculiar interest in our economic policy.

IV.

The main contents of the discussions

1./ Bilateral relations

- Let's evaluate positively our bilateral relations. Let's underline that we are for the improvement of these, however, these require calm European atmosphere free from tensions. It would contribute to the improvement of our bilateral relations if the British government would take constructive steps to achieve it.
- We are still ready for the continuation of the dialogue. We are

Page 4

interested in the maintenance of achievements of our relations, in the promotion of further co-operation. There are opportunities in the economic, cultural, technical-scientific fields and also in other ones. It is not a secret that here today the leadership's attention mainly focuses on economic – external economic questions.

- On economic grounds let's point out the known problems in bilateral relations and concerning the questions of Common Market. Our share in the English external economic trade is almost minimal /export 0,17%, import 0,08%/. According to our opinion the English market's absorbing capacity, its developed industry's transportation capacity is substantially of much bigger volume and it could allow more proportional than before and more steady a co-operation.

2. International questions

- Let's state the principles of Hungarian foreign politics and our standpoint concerning main international questions.
- Let's point out the advantages, results assured by the years of detente.
- Let's underline our interest in the maintenance of peace, let's express our worries

concerning the peculiar increase of tension due to missile deployment.

- Our standpoints concerning the judgement of reasons for the dangerously tense situation are dissimilar. According to our judgment in the creation of the tension the USA has an especially negative role. But the responsibility of those countries cannot be debated either which admitted the missiles.
- Let's underline the so far made efforts of the socialist community to stop the worsening of international situation, and at the same time let's call the attention to the fact that we have not received an answer from NATO to the Warsaw Pact suggestions.

Page 5

- Let's strengthen our capability to continue the dialogue, which we consider as one of the most efficient means to reduce tension. At the same time let's underline that there is an opportunity to reduce tension only by talks aiming to results and worthwhile steps, to reach an agreement which is acceptable for everyone, which is based on the principle of equality and equal safety.

The English part will enhance focus on:

- to condemn the politics and steps of the Soviet Union, to explain their standpoint concerning their relation with the Soviet Union, the Eastern-Western relations and the deployment of American medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, and to underline the last call of NATO, to evaluate the Stockholm conference;
- to explain the British standpoint concerning the situation of Poland, Afghanistan and the Middle East,
- to explain that they are interested in the maintenance of dialogue and bilateral relations in spite of the tension in the Soviet-American relations.

V.

The documents of the meeting

Joint communiqué will not be made. After the discussions, about the questions and reception, meetings we will publish a fact communiqué via the MTI [*Magyar Távirati Iroda = Hungarian News Agency*], in which we will underline in a more intense way than before our differences of opinion concerning international issues. The English part made public its wish to visit in the speech of Mrs Thatcher on the 14th November 1983.

Page 6

VI.

Press propaganda of the visit

The Press Department is to give a proposal about the visit's press plan to the Information Office of

the Cabinet. This shall include:

- Publishing a communiqué of the announcement of the visit. Date: 29 January, 1984 Sunday, /newspapers, radio, TV/;
- The events of the visit shall be followed by the press, the radio and TV.
- Before the visit according to the created practice articles shall be published in newspapers about Anglo-Hungarian relations, British internal and foreign politics. *[on the left side handwritten note by Nagy L[ajos]: "In a very moderate way!"]*
- Let's offer the opportunity of a TV interview for prime minister Margaret Thatcher. *[same handwriting as above, the sentence is crossed, on the left side written: "No way"]*
- The meeting of the representatives of the Hungarian press – if the British part asks for is – shall be organised by Hungarians.

VII.

Written materials to be prepared for the visit:

- Proposals.

For Comrade Lázár

- Topic plan for discussion /for international and bilateral relations/, *[next to it on the left same handwriting as above "1. tête-à-tête 2. for plenary discussion"]*
- Topic plan for conversation for Comrade János Kádár and Pál Losonczi *[name of Kádár is crossed, on the left side same handwriting as above: "For Cr. Kádár: - biography, - and brief relationship material are needed then of the [illegible] 1-1½ p. quick report]*
- Background materials /of bilateral relations, Great-Britain's internal and foreign policy, standpoint concerning main international questions, its relation to other socialist countries/.

Page 7

- Biography and characterization of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the leading figures who are members of her entourage.
- Programme.
- Toast. *[same handwriting on the left: "This is very important!"]*
- Plan of present.
- Collection of Mrs Thatcher's main foreign political statements.
- Press summary for Comrade Lázár about our country's picture in the British press. *[on the left same handwriting as above: "The last month, i. e. month of January. Deadline: 1/30"]*

The programme and plan of present are prepared by the Protocol Department, the others are prepared by the V. Territorial Department. /The discussion materials concerning economic questions – according to the created practice – we expect from Comrade József Marjai./

Deadline: 15 January

The V. Territorial Department – knowing the English discussion team – prepares a suggestion of the

members of the Hungarian discussion team, which will be approved by Comrade György Lázár.

Deadline: depending on the English announcement

VIII.

Materials to be prepared after the visit:

- Report for the Cabinet.

Responsible: V. Territorial Department

Deadline: 9 February [on the left side same handwriting as above "6 February the latest"]

- Action plan for the tasks to be made due to the visit.

Responsible: V. Territorial Department

Deadline: within 3 days after the approval of the Cabinet

Page 8

IX.

Acceptance and other visits

Comrade György Lázár, the host of prime minister Thatcher shall give a banquet in her honour in the Parliament on the 2nd February. The meetings shall take place on the 3rd February, first the tete-a-tete, then the plenary ones. Mrs Thatcher – upon her request – will be accepted on the same day by Comrade János Kádár in the Parliament building, and for a short complimentary visit she will be accepted by Comrade Pál Losonczi, the president of the Presidential Council.

We will give suggestions about the Hungarian persons to take part in the visit's programme upon knowing the members of the British company.

The necessary proposals will be made by the V. Territorial Department.

Budapest, 2 January 1984

[Signature one: Ábriné, same as inside the cover]

[Signature two: Nagy L.[ajos], the one to make the comments]