

CONFIDENTIAL



*file*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 April 1982

VISIT OF MR. GEORGE SHULTZ

The Prime Minister recently received a letter from the American Ambassador enclosing a message from President Reagan which requests Mrs. Thatcher to receive Mr. George Shultz on 9 May. I enclose a copy of President Reagan's message.

Although Mr. Louis's letter said that Mr. Shultz would be visiting "all the Economic Summit capitals" you will note that the President's message refers to "Summit meetings" in the plural.

The Prime Minister has agreed to see Mr. Shultz on Sunday, 9 May. In view of the shortage of time, I have told the American Embassy this and am confirming the arrangement in a letter to the US Ambassador. Over the weekend, the Prime Minister will be considering a short draft reply to President Reagan's message simply welcoming the prospect of a visit by Mr. Shultz.

We shall make precise arrangements for the visit nearer the time. The Prime Minister's present intention is to invite Mr. Shultz to lunch at Chequers on 9 May. She would be prepared to precede the lunch with talks. But clearly much will depend on the situation concerning the Falkland Islands next weekend. It may be that there will be last minute changes.

*B/F*  
*B/F*  
It would be helpful to have by close of play on Tuesday, 4 May, a draft guest list for a lunch of up to 18 people (though the Prime Minister may decide to give a rather smaller lunch) and any further advice you wish to offer on the arrangements for the visit. I should also be grateful for a brief by lunch time on Friday, 7 May.

I am copying this letter to John Kerr (H.M. Treasury) and also to David Wright (Sir Robert Armstrong has also heard from the American Ambassador about this visit).

A. J. COLES

Brian Fall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 April 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 27 April about the visit of Mr. George Shultz. Mrs. Thatcher would be delighted to receive Mr. Shultz on Sunday, 9 May. We shall be in touch with your staff about the precise arrangements a little nearer the time.

The Prime Minister will, of course, be replying to President Reagan's message on this subject but I thought that, in view of the imminence of the visit, you would like to hear before the weekend that Mr. Shultz will be welcome on 9 May.

A. J. COLES

His Excellency The Honourable John J. Louis Jr.

DEPARTMENT/SERIES ..... <i>PREM 19</i> ..... PIECE/ITEM ..... <i>1655</i> ..... (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract/Item details:  <u><i>Folio 2</i></u>  <i>Draft message PM to US President  (T. 93/82) (annotated 20/4/82)</i>	
CLOSED FOR ..... YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
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NUMBER NOT USED	

Ref: A08267



MR. COLES

I sent you a minute earlier today about President Reagan's proposal that Mr. George Schultz should visit the other Heads of State or Government who would be at the Versailles Economic Summit.

2. The American Ambassador has now told me that it is unfortunately not possible to re-arrange Mr. Schultz's schedule so that he can be in London on Friday, 7th May. He will be arriving early in the afternoon on Saturday, 8th May and would be available to call on the Prime Minister at a time convenient to her either later in the afternoon on Saturday, 8th May or on Sunday, 9th May. The Ambassador regretted that Mr. Schultz's schedule was not more flexible and realise the difficulties which this request might pose. I agreed to put to you these revised timings.

Robert Armstrong

28th April 1982

Ref. A08258

MR. COLES

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The American Ambassador rang me this morning to say that President Reagan had asked Mr. George Schultz to "make a swing" round the other Heads of State or Government who would be at the Versailles Economic Summit. His present plan was to reach this country late on Saturday 8th May, and he wondered whether it would be possible for him to see the Prime Minister on Sunday 9th May.

2. I said, unsighted, that I thought that the Prime Minister might prefer it if it were possible for Mr. Schultz to arrange his schedule so as to be in London on Friday 7th May. The Ambassador said he would see whether that was possible. I went on to say that I thought the Prime Minister would want to see Mr. Schultz, if he was coming round as the President's emissary, and I would not want to exclude the possibility of her seeing him on Sunday 9th May, if that was all he could manage.

3. I should be grateful for instructions.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

28th April, 1982

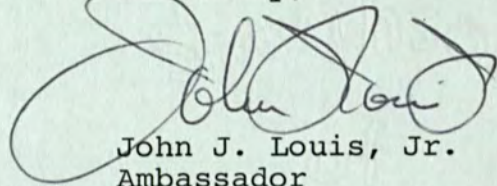
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EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
LONDON  
April 27, 1982

Dear Prime Minister:

I enclose a letter to you from President Reagan requesting you to receive George Shultz on May 9. Mr. Shultz is visiting all the Economic Summit capitals during the period May 5-14. In view of the short time between now and then, I would be very grateful for a response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



John J. Louis, Jr.  
Ambassador

Enclosure

SECRET

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

DEPARTMENT/SERIES ..... <i>PREM 19</i> ..... PIECE/ITEM ..... <i>1655</i> ..... (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract/Item details:  <i>Folio 1b</i>  <i>Message US President to PM</i> <i>(T.88/82)</i>	
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