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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

20 September 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO CENTURY HOUSE ON 25 SEPTEMBER

Thank you for your letter of 19 September enclosing a draft programme for the Prime Minister's visit to Century House on 25 September.

The Prime Minister is content with the programme and is looking forward to her visit. I suggest that you contact me on 24 September to discuss any last minute points.

CP

Charles Powell

R. C. Tutt, Esq.





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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*  
SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

In your minute of 6 September you suggested that the Prime Minister might take up an invitation from 'C' to visit Century House.

The Prime Minister is grateful for the invitation from 'C'. The most convenient date for her would be 25 September and I understand from Mr. Hatfield that this is likely to be acceptable to 'C'. The Prime Minister would be content with the programme outlined in 'C's letter to you. She would like me to accompany her.

(C.D. Powell)

10 September, 1984

SECRET AND STRICTLY PERSONAL



Ref. A084/2385

MR POWELL

'C' is very keen that the Prime Minister should visit Century House. I believe that she has already visited the sister service, so that there is an element of "keeping up with the Joneses" about this. Nonetheless, I am sure that it would be both interesting and useful to the Prime Minister to pay such a visit, if time could be found.

- 2. I attach a copy of a letter which I have received from 'C', indicating the kind of programme he has in mind and dates which might be possible.
3. Would you like to consult the Prime Minister about this?

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

6 September 1984

Prime Minister

What is proposed is  
 1/2 hour briefing & discussion  
 of agent cases, lunch &  
 brief row : say 11.30 - 3.00 p.m.

Either 25 or 26 September as possible.

Agree?

Yes

CIP  
7/9





CABINET OFFICE	
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FILING INSTRUCTIONS	
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LONDON

C/5895

5 September 1984

*Dear Robert,*

You will recall that when we met shortly before the holidays I said that, if it were possible for the Prime Minister to find time to pay a short visit to Century House, it would be greatly appreciated here and might be of interest to the Prime Minister herself. You said that it might be possible to arrange this some time in October.

May I revive the idea? The programme could, of course, be arranged entirely in accordance with the Prime Minister's wishes. But what I would tentatively suggest is that she should come at about 11.30, have up to 1½ hours general briefing on and discussion of current problems, including, perhaps, the Afghan scene and one or two of our most important agent cases; have lunch with half a dozen medium-grade and junior staff-members from different sections of the office who could speak articulately about their jobs; and finish with a quick 'walk-about' to allow the Prime Minister to see a couple of departments (eg the communications centre, a registry or the central card index) at work.

As regards dates, we could offer any day in October except 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, 23 and 29-31. In November the only difficult days would be 1, 9, 13, 15 and 19 onwards (when I expect to be in Africa).

I very much hope that the Prime Minister will consent to pay us a visit and that we shall be able to find a date convenient to her in the next 6 weeks or so. Would you please seek her views. I am, of course, at your disposal if you would like to discuss any aspect of the proposal.

*Yours ever,*

'C'

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO  
Cabinet Office