

RESTRICTED



Mr Barclay

10 DOWNING STREET

Handwritten initials and 'X pre'

From the Private Secretary

Castlere (o/v)

9 January 1985

Could you pl discuss  
dates with the FCO  
in due course? Dms 9/1

200th Anniversary of UK/US Diplomatic Relations

TOM

X | Thank you for your letter of 8 January about events to mark the 200th Anniversary of UK/US Diplomatic Relations.

The Prime Minister agrees to accept the candlesticks on behalf of HMG. A short ceremony at 10 Downing Street might be most appropriate. We could be in touch about a date nearer the time.

The Prime Minister proposes that the candlesticks should stand on the Cabinet table with those already there (but don't tell anyone this until we have had a look at them and made sure they are not an eyesore).

CF.

BF |

I offered 19 June  
w. u same  
They back to continue.  
CR

CHARLES POWELL

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

DEPARTMENT/SERIES ..... <i>PREM 19</i> ..... PIECE/ITEM ..... <i>1656</i> ..... (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract/Item details:  <i>Ricketts to Powell dated 8 January 1985</i>	
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## Treaty of Paris Candlesticks

The American Revolution ended in a Paris hotel room early on the morning of September 3, 1783, when American and British representatives signed a treaty of peace. After over two years of negotiations, both countries pledged "to forget past Misunderstandings & Differences" and to seek perpetual "Harmony." Wrote John Jay, one of the American negotiators: "The definite treaty is concluded and we are now, thank God, in full possession of peace and independence." Jay kept these candlesticks, from the room where the treaty was signed, as mementos of the occasion.



American peace commissioners had signed a preliminary treaty with Britain in 1782. But both parties agreed not to sign a final treaty until Britain had negotiated separate peace settlements with America's two major European allies, France and Spain. These

negotiations had dragged on for another year.

Once news of the final peace treaty was released, the celebrations began. In Paris, the people danced in the streets and feasted on wine and sausages. The citizens of Philadelphia erected a triumphal arch decorated with illuminated "transparent paintings" and flanked by fountains of fireworks.

"I join with you most cordially in rejoicing at the return of peace," wrote Benjamin Franklin to a friend in England. "I hope it will be lasting, and that mankind will at length . . . have reason and sense enough to settle their differences without cutting their throats; for, in my opinion, *there never was a good war or a bad peace.*"

*Lent by Peter Jay.*

## Read More About It

*The Peacemakers*, by Richard B. Morris.

*The Diplomacy of the American Revolution*, by Samuel Flagg Bemis.

**A Bookmark for  
An American Anthology  
Highlights of the Collections**  
An exhibition at the National  
Museum of American History  
Smithsonian Institution

- 8 JAN 1985

