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summary
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Prime Minister

Announcement of your visit
to Washington.

I don't think that you had time to
finish this. Agree that I should
speak to Charlie Price about including
Kansas City in the programme?

2. As a matter of protocol, we shall
have to clear the announcement of
your visit to Texas with the
Governor: and it would be difficult not
to refer to his invitation. The Washington
Embassy say that the White House would
perfectly understand and not take offence.
Agree to "The Prime Minister will

also go to Texas, at the
invitation of the Governor, and
visit " ?

In view of our present
problems, I am reluctant
voluntarily to extend the visit
outside Washington.

My

PRIME MINISTER

ANNOUNCEMENT OF YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON

The White House are keen to announce your February visit to Washington next Tuesday or Wednesday. This is probably wise, as news of it is beginning to leak out. The wording they propose is:

"The President has invited the British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, to Washington for an official working visit. The Prime Minister has accepted the invitation, and will meet with the President at the House White on 20 February 1985."

We should need to add to any such announcement reference to your visit to Texas. All we need to say at this stage is:

"At the invitation of the Governor, the Prime Minister will also visit Texas." *to visit*

go to

Austin etc.

No - this will cause problems. The Governor is a Rembrandt.

(I am assured that such an invitation has been extended)

I have consulted Bernard who agrees with the text and timing but points out that we shall need a clear brief on why you are going to Texas: otherwise the press will try to make out that it is a family reunion with Mark. That still leaves open the question of visiting Kansas City. At present your proposed programme in Texas would finish after lunch on Friday. It would be feasible for you to fly from Austin to Kansas (about 75 minutes), spend 2 or 3 hours there, and fly on to London arriving Saturday morning. There is not a great deal to do in Kansas and the only real point of going is to give pleasure to Charlie Price. You could visit the Truman Library at Independence which is about 20 minutes from Kansas City. No doubt Charlie Price would also organise a reception. I see no need to make any announcement about this part of the visit at this stage. But you might like me to tell Charlie

Price that you would be ready to pay a very brief visit to Kansas City on the way back to London and to seek some suggestions from him on what you might do.

Agree to announcement proposed above?

Agree that I should speak to Charlie Price as suggested?

C.D.P.

10 January, 1985

GPS 125

CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM WASHINGTON 100335Z JAN 85.

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 75 OF 9 JANUARY

INFO ROUTINE BIS NEW YORK.

INFO SAVING HOUSTON.

M.I.P.T. (NOT TO ALL: PRIME MINISTER'S FEBRUARY US VISIT:
ANNOUNCEMENT.

1. THE WHITE HOUSE, NSC, AND STATE DEPARTMENT ENVISAGE THAT THE
PRIME MINISTER'S FEBRUARY VISIT TO WASHINGTON MIGHT BE
ANNOUNCED AT NOON (WASHINGTON TIME) ON 15 OR 16 JANUARY.
THE EMBASSY IN LONDON ARE BEING INSTRUCTED TO CLEAR WITH NO 10
THE TIMING, AND THE FOLLOWING WORDING:-

"THE PRESIDENT HAS INVITED THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER,
MARGARET THATCHER, TO WASHINGTON FOR AN OFFICIAL WORKING VISIT.
THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION, AND WILL MEET WITH
THE PRESIDENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON 20 FEBRUARY 1985."
(THIS FOLLOWS THE STANDARD FORMULA FOR SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS.)

2. IF THE TIMING IS ACCEPTABLE TO YOU, WE ASSUME THAT A
PARALLEL NO 10 ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD COVER BOTH WASHINGTON AND TEXAS.
IT WOULD THEREFORE BE USEFUL IF YOU COULD LET US, AND HOUSTON,
HAVE YOUR FORM OF WORDS, FOR CLEARANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS.

3. FCO ADVANCE COPIES TO MARSHALL (NAD), POWELL AND INGHAM (NO 10).
(ADVANCED AS REQUESTED)

WRIGHT

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