



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 February, 1985

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Dear Charles,

Invitation to the Prime Minister from Westminster College,
Fulton, Missouri

You may wish to be aware that Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, invited the Prime Minister, through a letter to Sir Oliver Wright, to visit the College and the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library, to deliver a lecture and to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Law, in the expectation that her visit to the United States this week would take in the mid-west. I enclose their invitation and Sir Oliver's reply.

The College had previously invited the Prime Minister to address them in 1983. We will continue to keep them in mind as a potential forum.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

22 FEB 1985

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WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

FULTON, MISSOURI 65251

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

January 11, 1985

Sir Oliver Wright
Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of Great Britain
3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Hoff
M
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Dr. Steinwald
Amb. Price
22/
23/

Miss Phillips

To draft please

Dear Sir Oliver:

It has been brought to my attention that Prime Minister Thatcher is planning to visit the United States in late February and that she has expressed an interest in seeing the midwestern section of the country. At the suggestion of Franklin J. Cornwell, Honorary Consul in St. Louis, I would like to extend to the Prime Minister, through you, a cordial invitation to visit Westminster College and the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States which is located on this campus.

As you may be aware, we invited the Prime Minister to deliver the John Findley Green Foundation Lecture at Westminster College in 1983. Although she was not able to accept our invitation at that time, her private secretary responded as follows: "She will however, continue to bear your offer in mind in case it should be possible to take it up on some future occasion." In view of her impending visit to this country, we would like to re-issue the invitation.

It was under the auspices of the John Findley Green Foundation Lectureship that Sir Winston Churchill delivered his "Sinews of Peace" ("Iron Curtain") address at Westminster College in March of 1946. Subsequent lecturers in the series have included: President Harry S. Truman, President Gerald R. Ford, the Rt. Hon. The Viscount Hailsham, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Snow, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Harlech, The Hon. Edward Heath, The Hon. Clare Boothe Luce, and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. The deed of gift for the lectures provides for annual lectures designed to promote understanding of economic and social problems of international concern and stipulates that the speaker shall be a person of international reputation, whose topic shall be within the aim of the lectures and who shall present it with regard for Christian tolerance and practical benevolence.

We would be quite agreeable to scheduling the lecture on whatever date and time might be most convenient to the Prime Minister. Fulton is located about 100 miles west of St. Louis and 150 miles east of Kansas City. Transportation would be provided from either city to the campus, and Mrs. Saunders and I would be honored to entertain the Prime Minister overnight at the President's House in

Sir Oliver Wright
Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States
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the event that her schedule would permit her to remain following the lecture. The lecture would be presented in Champ Auditorium, which has a seating capacity of 1500.

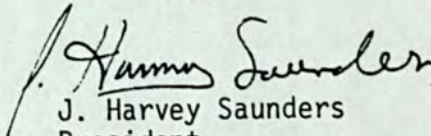
The Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States, stands on this campus as a symbol of the special Anglo-American relationship which Sir Winston espoused. It is the reconstructed Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, which was designed in the late 1600's by Sir Christopher Wren and which was gutted by an incendiary bomb in 1940. The exterior walls of the church were dismantled, shipped across the Atlantic, and reconstructed to commemorate Sir Winston's visit here and to memorialize his contributions to world peace and international understanding. The sanctuary of the church has been restored in the style of the Seventeenth Century, and a museum and library are housed in the undercroft of the structure. I am sure the Prime Minister would find a visit to the facility to be a very moving experience.

Should Prime Minister Thatcher find it possible to include a visit to Westminster and the Churchill Memorial in her itinerary, we would be honored to confer upon her the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in recognition of her service to her nation and to the causes of world peace and Anglo-American friendship.

I hope that you will convey to the Prime Minister our earnest hope that it will be possible for her to honor us with her presence during her visit to this country and to deliver the 41st John Findley Green Foundation Lecture at that time. We shall look forward to hearing further from you in this connection at your earliest convenience. In the meantime, if you should have any questions or desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 314/642-3361, ext. 315.

Thank you, in advance, for any assistance you may be able to provide. We, of course, would hope that you might find it possible to accompany the Prime Minister to Fulton in the event that she is able to accept our invitation.

Sincerely,


J. Harvey Saunders
President

Enclosures

cc: The Hon. Gordon Jewkes
The Hon. Franklin J. Cornwell
The Hon. Charles H. Price
The Lady Soames, DBE