



10 DOWNING STREET

Please file  
Q2  
7/ki

Prime Minister

You may wish  
be aware of this  
note which I intend  
to circulate if you  
agree.

I would rather return them  
my bow hunting - and I would rather return them

CDP

7/ki

Yes - but they cannot  
go straight to another for  
reason of discrediting. The same  
if they were from me

Personally - even if  
my bow hunting - and I would rather return them

RESTRICTED

HEAD OF GARDEN ROOMS  
HEAD OF CONFIDENTIAL FILING

cc for information  
Mr. Wicks  
Mr. Ingham  
Mr. Joce  
Miss Robilliard

GIFTS TO THE PRIME MINISTER

This minute sets out the arrangements for recording, valuing and storing gifts received by the Prime Minister from foreign governments, following our discussion last week.

Recording

The arrangements for recording gifts received by the Prime Minister while on visits abroad are satisfactory. The Garden Rooms log them during the visit. The lists should now be concentrated on a single file.

The gifts made to the Prime Minister by Heads of State and Government on visits to the United Kingdom need to be recorded in similar detail. In future they will be sent to the Garden Rooms to be logged. A master list should be established on a separate file. Such a list exists from 1983. It would be helpful if CF could research the period 1979-82 so that we have a full list.

Valuing

We have full records of valuation of gifts received on visits abroad. A similar procedure should in future apply to gifts received from visiting Heads of State or Government in this country where the gifts are or appear to be items of potential high value. Records of such valuations should be kept on the same files in which the gifts are recorded.

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Storage

Where gifts are within the permitted value or where the Prime Minister has decided to buy them, their use/storage is entirely a matter for the Prime Minister

Where the gifts exceed the permitted value and the Prime Minister does not (or not immediately) wish to buy them, there are three alternative courses:

i. they can be made over to No.10. They then become the responsibility of the Housekeeper.

ii. they can be retained in the special locked cabinet and the Prime Minister can make use of them when she so wishes. The cabinet will contain a master list of its contents: the movement of items issued to the Prime Minister should be noted.

iii. they can be sent for disposal by auction (but the Prime Minister has reservations about this because of the risk of discourtesy).

*-No. When I leave I wish to consider the option of returning them (especially those given to me personally)*

Final Disposal

It will be for the Prime Minister to decide, on her eventual departure from No.10, on the final disposal of the items in ii. above. Some she may wish to purchase, others she may prefer to return to those who made the gifts rather than see them go for auction.

Press Enquiries

Mr. Ingham will be personally responsible for handling all press enquiries about gifts to the Prime Minister. A Private Secretary should be consulted before any information is given. In general our line should be that gifts received by the Prime Minister in the course of her official duties are treated in accordance with established procedures. Out of deference to the donors sensibilities we do not disclose what eventually

happens to such gifts, they would not like it if they know that possibly expensive gifts were simply handed to an official body on return to the UK. That would hardly be good for our relations with them.

CHARLES POWELL  
4 November 1985