



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 September 1980

Michael Alexander Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Prime Minister

*Agree to call on
President Stevens at
his hotel, after your
breakfast on Tuesday
Nov 4?*

Dear Michael

*Yes
no*

VISIT OF PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE

MA 24/IX

We discussed the reception arrangements for President Stevens who is visiting the UK as a Guest of Government in November. The official programme will not start until Wednesday, 5 November but the President intends to arrive at Gatwick on British Caledonian flight 352 at 1725 hours on Monday 3 November so that he can have a day's rest. We consider it appropriate, therefore, that the arrival should be low-key and are proposing that a junior FCO Minister meet him at Gatwick as well, of course, as The Queen's representative.

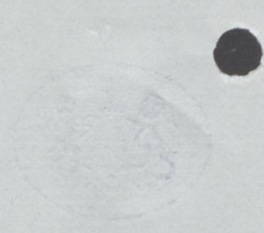
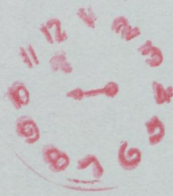
It would however be appropriate for the Prime Minister to meet President Stevens as soon as possible after his arrival and you thought she might be able to pay a brief courtesy call on him at the hotel (he will be staying at Claridges) the morning following his arrival. I should be grateful for confirmation that this proposal is acceptable to the Prime Minister and that 0915 hours on 4 November is convenient.

Yours ever

P T Metcalfe

P T Metcalfe (Miss)
Protocol and Conference Department

24 SEP 1980





PH
Sierra Leone.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 September, 1980.

Visit of President Stevens

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 22 September and has agreed to call on President Stevens at 0915 on 4 November.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Roderic Lyne.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Miss Peggy Metcalfe, O.B.E.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

KMF

Sierra Leone
1) BF 28/10/80 for briefing
2) BF 4/11/80 for meeting

25 July 1980

Visit by President Stevens of
Sierra Leone

Thank you for your letter of 25 July about the visit of President Stevens to this country. Virtually the only time within the bracket you mention which would be convenient for the Prime Minister would be the morning of Wednesday 5 November. The Prime Minister could receive President Stevens at 12 noon and offer him lunch thereafter, as you suggest.

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Sc.



10 DOWNING STREET

Wednesday 5 Nov

11.30 Talks

1300 lunch.

The alternative.

ES.

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 July 1980

Dear Michael,

Visit by President Stevens of Sierra Leone

In your letter of 31 March to Paul Lever, you informed us that the Prime Minister had agreed that President Stevens of Sierra Leone should be invited to pay a working visit to Britain in the autumn, subject to agreement on the dates. The invitation was formally conveyed by Mr Luce when he visited Freetown in May. During a private visit to London in June, the Vice-President told Mr Luce that President Stevens would prefer September or October for climatic reasons; but our High Commissioner subsequently explained to the Foreign Minister that we had suggested November/December for the visit because there was no period earlier in the autumn when both The Queen and the Prime Minister would be in London. The Foreign Minister told the High Commissioner on 14 July that the President would like a November visit, preferring the first half of the month if possible.

We now need to agree on dates which can be offered to the President. A principal part of the programme we envisage will be talks at No 10 and some entertainment offered by the Prime Minister. Talks starting at 12 noon followed by luncheon would seem to be the most convenient arrangement. I should be grateful if you could suggest which dates would be convenient for the Prime Minister.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

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FILE

VLB

Sierra Leone

31 March 1980

Sierra Leone

The Prime Minister has seen Roderick Lyne's letter to me of 28 March about the proposal that President Stevens of Sierra Leone should pay a working visit to Britain in the autumn. The Prime Minister agrees that, subject to agreement on the dates, such a visit should take place. She has commented, in view of President Stevens' remarks about aid, that we have no further funds for aid.

~~N J SANDERS~~

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

sl



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 March 1980

PRIME MINISTER

Agree a visit

Office

in principle?

MJS

28/3

Dear Michael,

Open to - But we have
no further funds for
aid? - no

SIERRA LEONE

During his call on Lord Carrington in June last year Dr Abdulai Conteh, Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone, said that President Stevens was anxious to pay a working visit to Britain at an early date. Lord Carrington welcomed this proposal in principle but pointed out that such a visit would require careful preparation in view of the President's position as an elder statesman in Africa and the Commonwealth.

President Stevens, who is 74, has been President since 1971 when the country became a Republic. He was Prime Minister for the previous three years. Although he is open to criticism for the ruthless manner in which he has on occasion dealt with his opponents and also for his mismanagement of the economy, Stevens has guided Sierra Leone through a potentially turbulent period of its history with some skill. Following the introduction of a One-Party Constitution in 1978, President Stevens has called for a spirit of national reconciliation and has appointed former political opponents to government office. While at pains to be even-handed in his relations with the East and West, Sierra Leone has generally adopted policies which have been favourable to Western interests.

We have been trying to add more substance to our relations. Two visits by Dr Conteh last year as a guest of HMG were the first Ministerial contact for several years. Sierra Leone has close professional, cultural, educational and sentimental links with this country and we still have a valuable commercial interest. President Stevens retains a deep respect for Britain and its institutions, particularly the Monarchy, but he has commented that we seem to have lost interest in his country, particularly over the question of aid.

A visit later this year would be particularly timely because the President will take up the Chairmanship of the Organisation of African Unity in June. Largely because of this, Sierra Leone has taken much greater interest in African affairs over the last two years, and it is important that we do all we can to encourage the President to maintain his comparatively moderate outlook.

/Lord Carrington

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street



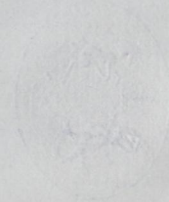
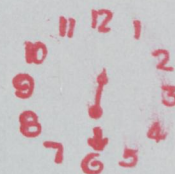
Lord Carrington, therefore, recommends that President Stevens should be invited to come here during his year of office as Chairman of the OAU. At this stage we have no precise dates to propose, though we incline towards a visit in November. If the Prime Minister agrees in principle that President Stevens should come here we would propose to discuss the timing of a visit with the Sierra Leoneans.

Lord Carrington also proposes that Mr Luce should visit Freetown in May 1980. This would be the first visit by a British Minister to Sierra Leone for several years and would enable us to get our point of view across to President Stevens before he becomes OAU Chairman.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)

28 MAR 1980





With the compliments of

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Under via

you

*Key
/8*

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
SW1A 2AH

RESTRICTED

Lu. Leoni

S. No. 10

[Signature]

RESTRICTED

FM F C O 151016Z AUG 79
TO IMMEDIATE FREETOWN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 55 OF 15 AUGUST

YOUR TELNO 66: PROPOSED VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS.

1. PLEASE EXPLAIN TO PRESIDENT'S OFFICE THAT A CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER ON DATE SUGGESTED WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE. PRIME MINISTER'S DIARY IS FULL ON 15 SEPTEMBER AND THEREAFTER SHE WILL BE OUT OF LONDON FOR A WEEK.
2. PARA 4 OF TUR. WE DID NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH CONTEH WHEN HE PASSED THROUGH LONDON.

CARRINGTON

FILES
WAD
PACD
NEWS D
OJD
PUSD
PS
PS/HPS
PS/MR LUCE
SIR. A. DUFF
MR WILLIAMS
MR WILLSON

RESTRICTED



With the compliments of

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

as per your request
QA 22/8

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
LONDON, SW1A 2AH

GRS 451

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DE BY FCO 091300Z AUGUST

FM FREETOWN 091045Z AUG 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 86 OF 09 AUGUST

MA JOHNSON'S LETTER JWS 026/2 OF 23 JULY: VISIT OF PRESIDENT STEVENS.

1. ABDUL KARIM, SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT, ASKED ME TO CALL THIS MORNING. HE EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT STEVENS WOULD BE ATTENDING THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN HAVANA (3-7 SEPTEMBER) AND HAD THEREAFTER ARRANGED AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OFFICES IN BRUSSELS FROM 13-14 SEPTEMBER. INTERVENING PERIOD IS LIKELY TO BE SPENT IN PRIVATE VISIT TO UNITED STATES.

2. THE PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED A WISH AFTER BRUSSELS TO SPEND "ONE OR TWO DAYS IN LONDON" AND TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER. KARIM BELIEVED THIS SUGGESTION HAD ARISEN OUT OF SOMETHING SAID IN LUSAKA. AMONG SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED THE PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSLY MENTIONED THE KISSY JETTY. KARIM ASKED WHETHER, SUPPOSING PRESIDENT STEVENS MOVED TO LONDON ON 15 SEPTEMBER FOR EITHER PRIVATE OR WORKING VISIT, TIME COULD BE FOUND FOR HIM TO SEE MRS THATCHER THE FOLLOWING DAY.

3. I EXPLAINED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROGRAMME WAS VERY FULL AND THAT PERIOD IN QUESTION WAS LIKELY TO BE PARTICULARLY BUSY, BUT IN VIEW OF THE HINTS OF PRE-ARRANGEMENT IN LUSAKA HAD NO OPTION BUT TO PURSUE ENQUIRY. GRATEFUL THEREFORE FOR YOUR VIEWS ON POSSIBILITIES.

4. SIERRA LEONE FOREIGN MINISTER IS BELIEVED TO BE IN LONDON TODAY EN ROUTE FROM LUSAKA TO AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO TURKEY. YOU MAY WISH TO INVOLVE HIM: IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IF YOU COULD IMPRESS ON HIM THE FUTILITY OF PURSUING THE KISSY JETTY ISSUE. I ASSUME THAT THE PRESIDENT, FOR WHOM IN HIS OLD AGE THE JETTY REMAINS AN OBSESSION, IS STILL HOPING TO PERSUADE HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO PAY PART OF THE COST. HE HAS NOT HOWEVER RAISED THE MATTER WITH ME IN RECENT INTERVIEWS.

MORGAN

FILES

WAD

PUSD

PS/LPS

SIR A DUFF

NEWS D

PCD

PS/MR LUCE

MR WILLIAMS

OID

PS

PS/PUS

MR WILLSON

CONFIDENTIAL