

PRIME MINISTER

Your lunch for King Hussein, 18 June

We have learned from the Jordanian Embassy that King Hussein, who will be in London on a private visit, will be accompanied by Queen Noor. The Ambassador is not, he assures me, suggesting that you should include Queen Noor in your lunch for King Hussein if this would be in any way inconvenient, but he thought you would wish to know that Queen Noor will be in town.

This is awkward. It would not be appropriate to invite Queen Noor to what is by design a working lunch. In theory, you could convert the lunch into a social one and have separate talks with King Hussein before or after the meal, or on another day; but your diary is very full, especially on 18 June, and economy of time was part of the idea of suggesting a working lunch.

In the circumstances, I suggest that you stick to a working lunch and that I convey a message from you to the Jordanian Ambassador explaining that your very heavy commitments during that week will not make it possible for you to have separate talks with King Hussein and that you hope very much that Queen Noor will understand if you give the lunch on 18 June for King Hussein alone. I suggest that you might also send a very magnificent bouquet to Queen Noor on her arrival, and shall arrange this if you agree.

Would you be content with the following guest list for the working lunch:

Prime Minister

King Hussein

Lord Privy Seal (Lord Carrington will be away at a Ministerial meeting in Brussels)

Secretary of State for Defence

Mr. John Moberly (former Ambassador in Amman and now Under Secretary in charge of Middle East affairs in the FCO)

Jordanian Ambassador

Mr. Cartledge

/King Hussein

King Hussein may well have an adviser or Minister of Court with him, who would of course be included. Is there anybody else whom you yourself would wish to invite?

Byd. Forrestland?

We must state to a working lunch,  
The Queen would not enjoy such an  
occasion and it would alter everything  
including the food. but if we turned  
it into a social occasion.

6 June 1979

arb.

Jordan

CONFIDENTIAL

JS



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

B/F 15679

5 June 1979

VISIT TO LONDON BY KING HUSSEIN

You wrote to Bryan Cartledge on 2 June about King Hussein's proposed visit from 13 to 19 June.

As I told you on the telephone, the Prime Minister has agreed to give a small working lunch for King Hussein at 1315 on Monday 18 June.

M. A. PATTISON

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

KRB  
✓



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Could you agree  
to give King Hussein a  
small working lunch on Monday, 1 June 1979  
18 June? It is a very full day, but you could give him  
from 1315 to 1515, when you wish to go over to the Home.

Dear Bryan,

Bul  
4/10

Visit to London by King Hussein

King Hussein of Jordan has told HM Ambassador at Amman that he proposes to visit London from 13 to 19 June. His main purpose would be to see the Prime Minister and other members of the Government.

The King is, of course, a firm friend of Britain and an influential voice in the Middle East. There are a number of important subjects to be discussed with him: the general Middle East situation, the possible sale of Shir tanks to Jordan (due for consideration by Ministers on 11 June in OD) and Jordan's interest in the purchase of the Tristar aircraft with Rolls Royce engines. The King has normally in the past been received by the Prime Minister of the day. He is likely to see President Giscard during his visit to France for the Paris Air Show immediately before coming to London. He will have noted the reception accorded to Mr Begin.

Lord Carrington recommends therefore that the Prime Minister should invite the King to No 10 during his visit. It would be much appreciated if the invitation could take the form of a working lunch. Lord Carrington would himself propose to call on the King during his stay.

I should be grateful if you could let me know the Prime Minister's views. The King has asked the Ambassador to inform him at once if there is any difficulty over the proposed dates.

Yours etc

A friend and

Paul

P Lever  
Private Secretary

Bryan Cartledge Esq  
10 Downing Street

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E1 JUN 1979

