

MR. WALL

MRS. THATCHER'S VISIT TO TAIWAN

As I mentioned to you, Julian Seymour filled me in yesterday with more information about Mrs. Thatcher's visit to Taiwan. She is going as the guest of Citycorp in a tour which includes speaking engagements in Korea and Taiwan. (She was also going to Singapore, but that has now been dropped.) Julian Seymour himself had been to both Korea and Taiwan last week and said he had been very well received in Taiwan. Mrs. Thatcher will see the President, I think for breakfast, but it will be made clear that the purpose of her visit is to fulfil a private sector speaking engagement. She will stay in a hotel, rather than with our Trade Mission there.

Julian Seymour said that in his discussions with the Taiwanese they had made it very clear that they would not exploit her visit for propaganda purposes, though we shall have to see how much that is worth in practice.

Mrs. Thatcher has asked for briefing on both the situation in Taiwan and also the latest state of play on Hong Kong. You said you would see what suitable arrangements could be made. She is going in late August and would, I think, like to be briefed before the end of July.

A First Secretary at the Chinese Embassy in London has already been round to deliver what Julian Seymour described as "a rather ritual protest" to him. The Chinese Ambassador is due to see Mrs. Thatcher shortly (and I believe has already spoken to Charles Powell about Mrs. Thatcher's visit).

Mrs. Thatcher is keen to use the visit to develop British trade links with Taiwan and it may be that DTI can provide some help with this.

For the visit to Korea, Julian Seymour has been liaising with David Wright. I gather the awkwardness over her close relationship with one of the Presidential candidates has been finessed by saying she would be happy to see any of the Presidential candidates while she is in Korea, coupled with a visit to the shipyards which will be a perfectly natural part of her schedule.

I am sure Julian Seymour would be quite ready to provide any further information if that would be helpful. But it would be better if you or I (or someone from the FCO Private office) spoke to him: he had not been much impressed by a rather peremptory request from someone he described as a "desk officer" in the FCO who had rung up and asked him to cancel the visit!


(ALEX ALLAN)

18 June 1992

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Foreign &
Commonwealth
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London SW1A 2AH

Alex Allen
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Dear Stephen,

Lady Thatcher's Visit to Taiwan: FCO Briefing

You said that Alex Allen had been lobbied over briefing for Lady Thatcher before she goes to Taiwan. I said I thought that John Coles would be briefing her. He is - towards the end of July. She does not go to Taiwan until September.

Yours ever,
R. Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

J S Wall Esq
10 Downing Street

Stephen

Thanks. As well as political stuff, there's also point about whether she can be of help on trade side.
Moz

1/ via files

1/ by 10 Jun
[Signature]

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