

MR. WHITMORE

cc. Mr. Coles  
Mr. Howe  
Mrs. Dickson  
Mr. Rickett

Franco/British Council and the General Assembly  
of the Church of Scotland

I spoke to Muir Russell. He reiterated the Secretary of State's offer made last night that the Prime Minister would be very welcome at Bute House for the night of Saturday, 15 May. I told Muir how the Prime Minister's programme stood at the present time, i.e. that she was in Perth on the Friday night and had offered the Prime Minister of France talks in Edinburgh on Saturday morning. The afternoon was to be kept free for her to work on the Franco/British Council speech. I explained that the talks with the Prime Minister of France had not been confirmed.

Muir told me that it was not essential for the Prime Minister to attend the General Assembly this year but if she did not do it this year, she would have to do it next. If, coincidentally, she is in Edinburgh this year at the same time I feel it would make sense for her to take on some sort of engagement, so long as it does not involve a speech. Muir Russell has already suggested the church service on Sunday, but I have asked him to look again at the programme to see if there would be something better. If M. Mauroy has his talks in London on Monday, 17, this would free the ~~Sunday~~ <sup>Saturday</sup> morning and the Prime Minister might be able to attend the opening ceremony?

ej.

29 January, 1982

Clive

The letter we to be on  
~~Sat~~ Monday, 17 May, not  
on the Sunday.

A.S.C.

Mr. Bates —  
Mr. Howe  
Mrs. Dickson  
Mr. Rickett

Franco/British Council and the General Assembly  
of the Church of Scotland

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CAROLINE STEPHENS

29 January, 1982

vb

9/2

8/2

26 January 1982

Although I was speaking to your office today about the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, I wonder if you could let me have your advice as to whether you consider this an essential Scottish engagement for the Prime Minister. We have had a letter from John Gilmour. It really would be extremely difficult for Mrs Thatcher to attend. She is addressing the Conservative Conference in Perth on Friday 14 May and, as you know, will be in Edinburgh for the Franco/British Council on Saturday 15th. She proposes to fly down to London after the dinner and has a very hectic schedule the following week.

C.S.

advice coming  
tomorrow.

21.8/2

Caroline

Have you received  
this? Kay

15/2

A. Muir Russell, Esq.,  
Scottish Office.

B

CAROLINE

Any further action?  
Who's Who extract below.

Trina

26/1

GILMOUR, Col Sir John (Edward), 3rd Bt, *cr* 1897; DSO 1945; TD; JP; Lord-Lieutenant of Fife, since 1980 (Vice Lord-Lieutenant, 1979-80); *b* 24 Oct. 1912; *o* s of Col Rt Hon. Sir John Gilmour, 2nd Bt, GCVO, DSO, MP, and Mary Louise (*d* 1919); *e* d of late E. T. Lambert, Telham Court, Battle, Sussex; *S* father, 1940; *m* 1941, Ursula Mabyn, *yr d* of late F. O. Wills; two *s*. *Educ*: Eton; Trinity Hall, Cambridge. Served War of 1939-45 (DSO). Bt Col 1950; Lieut, Royal Company of Archers (Queen's Body Guard for Scotland); Hon. Col, The Highland Yeomanry, RAC, T&AVR, 1971-75. MP (C) East Fife, 1961-79. Chm., Cons. and Unionist Party in Scotland, 1965-67. DL Fife, 1953. *Heir*: *s* John Gilmour [*b* 15 July 1944; *m* 1967, Valerie, *yr d* of late G. W. Russell, and of Mrs William Wilson; two *s* two *d*]. *Address*: Montrave, Leven, Fife. *TA*: Leven. *T*: Leven 26159. *Clubs*: Cavalry and Guards; Leander.

*See also Dame Anne Bryans, Viscount Younger.*

I wrote <sup>to</sup> the Scottish  
office today about  
the assembly. Can  
you marry the two  
letters.

*Four*

26 January 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 21 January.

This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

Colonel Sir John Gilmour, DSO, TD, JP