

PRIME MINISTER

WEEKEND OF 15/16 MAY: SCOTLAND

I attach two letters containing Mr. Younger's advice on your visit to Scotland for the Franco/British Council.

The French Prime Minister

He cannot stay at Holyrood on the Saturday night because it will be occupied by the Lord High Commissioner and others in connection with the General Assembly. Various other alternatives (Hopetoun House, the Castle) have been considered but are thought not to be suitable.

Agree that we should offer M. Mauroy accommodation at the Residence of the GOC Scotland unless he prefers to stay with his Consul General or use a hotel?

Your own arrangements

Agree:

- (a) not to attend the Opening of the General Assembly;
- (b) to arrive in Edinburgh at about lunch-time, 15 May;
- (c) to stay with Mr. and Mrs. Younger at Bute House on the night of 15 May;
- (d) not to go to church on Sunday morning in view of the problems set out in the attached letters but to return to London.

All the above agreed with Caroline.

A. J. C.  $\frac{5}{3}$

5 March 1982

Clearly it would be easier to fly  
back to London immediately after the dinner.  
Perhaps the French P.M. would care to do the same  
Not.



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

8 March 1982

Weekend of 15/16 May

Thank you for your letter of 1 March. The Prime Minister has seen both this and John Wilson's letter of 11 February to Caroline Stephens.

The Prime Minister would like the matter of M. Mauroy's accommodation to be cleared up as quickly as possible. She is keen that we should do all we can to meet whatever his wishes are. In view of the difficulties outlined in your letter, it may be that M. Mauroy would rather fly to London after the dinner on 15 May and spend the weekend here. On the other hand, should he maintain his wish to spend the Sunday privately in Scotland, the Prime Minister agrees that we should take advantage of the kind offer of the GOC Scotland. The best course now might be to put the various alternatives to M. Mauroy via the Embassy in Paris. I should be grateful if Francis Richards, provided he agrees, could do this. In discussing the Scottish alternative, the Embassy could presumably indicate that if for some reason M. Mauroy did not want to stay with the GOC Scotland we should be happy to make arrangements for him to use a leading hotel, unless he preferred to stay with his Consul General. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will also doubtless deal with the point in your letter of 1 March about the status of the Edinburgh part of M. Mauroy's visit.

As regards the Prime Minister's own plans, she accepts the advice of your Secretary of State that she should not attend the opening of the General Assembly and that she should therefore arrive in Edinburgh at about lunch time on 15 May. On reflection, she is now inclined to fly back to London immediately after the dinner on 15 May and will therefore not need to take up the kind offer of accommodation for that night made by Mr. and Mrs. Younger.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Francis Richards (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

A. J. COLES

Muir Russell, Esq.,  
Scottish Office.

cc. FCO

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France

BIF

DSC



SCOTTISH OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
No 10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

1 March 1982

*Dear John,*

WEEKEND OF 15/16 MAY 1982

We spoke again last week about the arrangements for this weekend and I promised to write.

The Secretary of State's advice on the Prime Minister's engagements and accommodation remains as set out in my letter of 11 February to Caroline Stephens. Mr Younger feels that Mrs Thatcher should not attend the opening of the General Assembly and that it would be inappropriate for her to stay at Holyroodhouse on the night of Saturday 15 May. His invitation to the Prime Minister to stay at Bute House that night of course remains open and Mr and Mrs Younger would be very glad indeed to have Mrs Thatcher as their guest. It would be helpful to have an early decision on the Prime Minister's accommodation since Sir John Gilmour needs to firm up his guest list for Saturday 15 May and the associated church service and lunch on Sunday 16 May.

There is no obviously ideal accommodation for the French Prime Minister, M Mauroy. It would not be appropriate for him to stay at Holyroodhouse on Saturday 15 May for similar reasons to those given in the fourth paragraph of my letter of 11 February. Mr Hadley of the Franco-British Council, with whom I have discussed the matter, clearly feels that hotel accommodation would be inappropriate for M Mauroy though we would not necessarily accept this, and in the event that no other accommodation was available we would not regard accommodating M Mauroy in a hotel (probably the Caledonian) as inappropriate. Mr Hadley suggested to me that it might be possible for M Mauroy to stay in Hopetoun House itself but, as you will recall, Sir Philip de Zulueta intervened to tell you that this was out of the question because the domestic accommodation at Hopetoun House was inadequate for the purpose. (This is inconsistent with what is said in Mr Hadley's letter of 24 February to you conveying Lord and Lady Linlithgow's offer of overnight accommodation for the Prime Minister, but I rather think we should accept Sir Philip's judgement.)

As I told you, we explored whether Edinburgh Castle might contain suitable accommodation. It does not, but in the course of our inquiries General Sir David Young, GOC in Scotland, offered accommodation at his residence, Gogarbank, which is on the west of Edinburgh, not far from the route to Hopetoun House. I have discussed this with

B. R.

the Secretary of State who thinks it would be quite suitable for M Mauroy; and Mr Hadley, to whom I have mentioned the possibility informally, raised no objection. In the circumstances, subject to your views, I suggest that the way is clear to put this possibility to the French - presumably through our Embassy in Paris. In approaching the French might I suggest that the opportunity be taken to clarify once and for all the status which they attach to the Edinburgh part of M Mauroy's visit since, as we know, it has been arranged so far by the Franco-British Council through fairly informal personal contacts.

I am copying this letter to Francis Richards.

*A. Muir Russell*

A MUIR RUSSELL  
Private Secretary

MAR 1961





SCOTTISH OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

Miss Caroline Stephens  
No 10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

11 February 1982

Dear Caroline,

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

We have discussed on a number of occasions your request for advice on whether the Prime Minister should attend part of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (your letter of 26 January refers). John Coles' letter of 8 February to Francis Richards has been helpful in removing some of the uncertainties about the various possibilities for this rather busy weekend and I am now in a position to offer you advice.

On Saturday 15 May the only possibility would be for the Prime Minister to attend the formal opening of the General Assembly, as she did last year. My Secretary of State considers that this would be unnecessary and indeed perhaps inappropriate since it would mean that twice in succession the Prime Minister had attended the General Assembly without making a formal address (which there is no possibility of doing in the opening ceremony). There could also be practical problems in that the ceremony begins around 9.30 am; and it is of course customary for those taking part to spend the previous night as guests of the Lord High Commissioner at Holyrood, which the Prime Minister's engagements in Perth would preclude.

If the Prime Minister does not attend the opening ceremony there may be some advantage in arranging her travel plans so that she does not arrive in Edinburgh until perhaps just after lunch on Saturday 15 May, to avoid any suggestion that she was in the city and failed to come to the ceremony.

The question of accommodation for the Prime Minister on the night of Saturday 15 May is linked with whether, as suggested in John Coles' letter, she attends church on the morning of Sunday 16 May. The appropriate service for her to attend would be at St Giles' Cathedral. This is a formal service involving Church dignitaries, High Court judges and the like. The Prime Minister could really only attend this service as a guest of the Lord High Commissioner and established custom would indicate that she should spend the previous night at Holyrood House, and probably also stay for lunch with Sir John Gilmour on the Sunday. Also, while no publicity would be given to her attendance at the Church Service, the fact that she would be there would be bound to become fairly widely known.

An alternative course would be for the Prime Minister to stay at Bute House as a guest of the Secretary of State and Mrs Younger. She would then be free to leave Edinburgh whenever convenient in the course of Sunday morning. If the Prime Minister wishes to meet M Mauroy on the Saturday afternoon or early evening (perhaps before travelling with him to dinner) this could be conveniently arranged at Bute House.

I hope that this advice will be helpful in firming up the Prime Minister's programme. Once we have done so it will be possible to consider the rest of the points in John Coles' letter of 8 February about the arrangements to be made for M Mauroy.

I am copying this letter to Francis Richards and John Coles.

*Yours sincerely,*

*John Wilson.*

JOHN S WILSON  
Private Secretary

NOTE FOR THE FILE

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FRANCO-BRITISH COUNCIL: SCOTLAND

I spoke to John Wilson today to ask him:

(1) whether it was all right for the Prime Minister to arrive in Edinburgh before lunch, given Scottish Office previous advice;

(2) to confirm that she would work at Bute House during the afternoon and change there for the dinner.

*es.*

9 March 1982



MR. COLES

cc. Mrs. Dickson

Franco/British Council, Edinburgh

Saturday, 15 May

I spoke to John Wilson (Scottish Office) today. We agreed that it would be better if the Prime Minister arrived after lunch in Edinburgh, so as not to offend anyone connected with the Church Assembly. I agreed that the Prime Minister would have an early lunch in Perth, say at 1200, and go straight to Bute House. She would work on her speech in the afternoon.

*CS.*

*I assume you will meet her in Edinburgh?*

9 March, 1982

*Yes. A.S.C.  $\frac{9}{3}$*

File

Jup



Alan

You have  
this file in CF

10 DOWNING STREET

Kay  
8/3

MR. THATCHER

FRANCO/BRITISH COUNCIL:  
EDINBURGH - SATURDAY 15 MAY

The Prime Minister is not now staying overnight in Edinburgh. She will return to London after the Council's Dinner. I have written to the organisers to tell them that you will be accompanying the Prime Minister.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

8 March 1982

*Franco British Council* BRITISH SECTION

2 Clarendon Close London W2 2NS Telephone 01-262 8959

24 February 1982

John Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

*ep.*  
Coles

*To note, with*

*we have four bottles*

*Office.*

*MR 26.  
2*

*Dear Mr Coles,*

I have just heard from the Administrator of Hopetoun House that Lord and Lady Linlithgow would be delighted to offer overnight hospitality to the Prime Minister if she would like to accept it. They will, of course, be present at our dinner and would welcome the Prime Minister should she wish to change at Hopetoun House.

Because of the, as yet, unresolved problem of Monsieur Mauroy I am copying this note to Mr Muir Russell of the Scottish Office, Sir Philip de Zulueta and the Lord Polwarth.

*Yours sincerely,*

*James Hadley*

James Hadley

cc: The Lord Polwarth, TD, DL  
Mr Muir Russell  
Sir Philip de Zulueta

22 February 1982

Visit of M. Mauroy

Thank you for your letter of 17 February.

The Prime Minister agrees to hold talks with M. Mauroy at 1130 and to follow these with lunch on 17 May.

As to the speeches at the Edinburgh dinner, the Prime Minister thinks that she will have to speak for some 10-15 minutes. I imagine that M. Mauroy will speak for rather longer.

AJC

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.