

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO WASHINGTON

We are being pressed by the Americans for answers to a number of questions about your visit to Washington. The main ones are set out below. It is in fact going to be a State visit in all but name.

Arrival time

I assume you would be ready to helicopter to Heathrow after Questions on Tuesday 15 November to enable us to take off at 1630, which would get us to Washington at 2000. Agree? *Yes*

Accommodation

The Americans have offered Blair House which has just been completely refurbished. They obviously want you to stay there. Agree? *Yes not*

Gifts

The President and Mrs. Reagan are going to give a personal rather than an official gift. It will be an American white porcelain bowl, made between 1910-1920, with blue and gold decoration and an eagle in the centre. It is not of very high value but something which Mrs. Reagan has personally found and wants to give you. We shall need to look for something commensurate in return. Perhaps we could discuss this.

Speeches

You apparently need to make three speeches but all very short:

- 3 minutes at the arrival ceremony,
- 3-5 minutes for a toast at the State Department lunch
- 3 minutes only for a toast at the White House State dinner.

I will start work on these as soon as possible.

Other meetings

The formal ceremonies and your meeting with the President will take most of the morning and be followed by the State Department lunch. But you will be free from approximately 1500-1800 in the afternoon.

Would you like some or all that time left free?

Or

Would you prefer to have individual meetings with

Shultz ✓

Carlucci

Greenspan ✓

Brady (Treasury Secretary)

Please tick those you prefer.

State Dinner

It is apparently normal practice for the President and Mrs. Reagan and the guest of honour to leave immediately after the entertainment, but for there to be dancing for other members of the party and the President's guests. The President wonders however whether you and Mr. Thatcher might like to stay on for perhaps the first dance with them. This would be an exceptional gesture. Agree to stay for the first dance?

Yes - love to

State Dinner invitations

The White House will be inviting Mark and Diane as well as Carol.

Wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

This is not an essential part of the visit but might be fitted in on the morning of 17 November. Is it something you would like to do?

Yes please not

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Accentuate the Positive

The Board of Education of Queen Anne's County Maryland want to present an award to you recognising the fact that the song "Accentuate the Positive" which you quoted in a recent interview is the song of the school system. The ceremony will take only 10 minutes and might be an attractive addition to the programme. Agree to do it?

*Yes no*

Delegation

You will be two nights in Washington in Blair House. Will you want to take Crawfie? Or will Carol give you a hand?

*Yes no*

VC10 Passenger list

Ambassador Price has asked whether he and Mrs. Price could return from Washington to London on the VC10. I have said that I am sure you would be happy to agree to this. Content?

*Delighted*

We cannot do much about the arrangements for 17 November until we know who has been elected President. If it is George Bush they should be fairly straightforward, probably involving lunch at the Vice President's residence. If it is Dukakis, we shall probably have to go to Boston.

Bernard will be putting to you separately a number of points about handling of the press.

*CD?*

*no*

(C. D. POWELL)

13 October 1988

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