

cc 720 DSG

SUBJECT.



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE

10 DOWNING STREET

SERIAL No. T 193/82

THE PRIME MINISTER

15 October 1982

Dear Mr. President.

cf. master set  
ops

My colleagues and I would be most honoured if you could agree to accept this invitation to pay a visit to the United Kingdom in the spring or summer of 1983, as a guest of the British Government.

If you are able to come and if Her Majesty The Queen is in London at the time, I have no doubt that Her Majesty would be delighted to receive you. I myself should very much like to have official talks with you and whichever Ministerial colleagues might accompany you, and benefit from your vast experience of African affairs; and also to entertain you at No. 10 Downing Street. The Lord Mayor of London would no doubt be most honoured to meet you; and we could also arrange other meetings, calls and visits by mutual agreement.

Before we take the planning any further, I thought that I should extend this invitation in order to ascertain whether you might be able to visit us next year. If you are able to accept, we could explore mutually convenient dates through our Ambassadors in Abidjan and London. I much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely  
Raymond Barber

His Excellency Monsieur Felix Houphouet-Boigny, G.C.M.G.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

If you agree, you may care to

sign the attached letter of  
invitation to the President of the  
Ivory Coast. "Dear Mr. President".

11 October 1982

Dear John,

A.J.C. <sup>12</sup>/<sub>10</sub>Official Visit by President Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast

At the last Royal Visits Committee in May, it was agreed that President Houphouet-Boigny should be one of six Guest of Government visitors in 1983. We wished to invite him because of his position as the leading elder statesman in Africa, who has for over two decades been Head of State of a stable, well-governed, economically-viable and potentially oil-rich country. We have devoted considerable ministerial attention to the Ivory Coast over the past two years. There have been outward visits by Lord Carrington, the Duke of Kent, Lord Trefgarne and Mrs Fenner (all leading delegations of businessmen); and by Mr Luce. Among inward visitors have been the Ministers of Defence, and of Commerce; and the Minister of the Environment is expected shortly (there is the prospect of sales of equipment and technology to prevent oil pollution).

There remains, however, the possibility that Houphouet-Boigny might decide that, because of his advanced age (he is 77) he would prefer not to undertake such a visit. Nevertheless, we have every reason to believe that he would be flattered to be invited, even if in the end he declines. In order to ascertain whether he will come or not, we should be grateful if the Prime Minister could agree to extend an invitation to him which will go no further than to identify next spring or summer as the time for such a visit, with dates to be mutually explored thereafter if he agrees to come.

I attach a draft letter along these lines. If this is agreed, the letter would best be delivered personally by HM Ambassador in Abidjan.

Yours ever,  
R B Bone

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

FOREIGN POLICY: FUTURE STATE VISITS



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 March, 1983

Ivory Coast

Thank you for your recent undated letter about the visit of President Houphouet-Boigny. The Prime Minister agrees to receive the President in the FCO Quadrangle at 11.45 a.m. on 27 July. She further agrees that the ceremonial arrangements should be the same as those for King Hussein, which the Prime Minister found very satisfactory.

A. J. COLES

R. B. Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SW



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Were you content with  
the arrival ceremony for  
King Hussein?

A. J. C. 29/3

Yes  
not 29/3

Yes John,

Ivory Coast

President Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast has now accepted our invitation to visit the United Kingdom as a guest of Her Majesty's Government from 26 to 29 July. The Prime Minister has agreed to receive the President for talks followed by lunch on 27 July.

We propose that the Prime Minister should welcome the President with a Guard of Honour immediately before the talks and that this should take place in the FCO Quadrangle, the arrangements being the same as those for King Hussein.

If this proposal is acceptable to the Prime Minister, would you let me know, please, whether it would be convenient for her to receive President Houphouet-Boigny in the FCO Quadrangle at 11.45 am on 27 July?

Yes  
R B Bone

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

Ivory coast Oct 82

Visit by President

29 MAR 1983





file

R07

Bic: CS

Ivory Coast

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 March, 1983

OFFICIAL VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
IVORY COAST

Thank you for your letter of 8 March. The Prime Minister would be glad to receive President Houphouet-Boigny for talks followed by lunch on Wednesday, 27 July.

BF

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

The dates are possible for you  
but it is of course a very busy time in  
the parliamentary calendar.

8 March 1983

Content:

*Yes*

A.S.C. 9/3

*John Taylor*

Official Visit by President Houphouet-Boigny

The Prime Minister wrote last October to President Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast to invite him to pay a visit to the United Kingdom in the spring or summer of 1983, as a guest of the British Government.

Following consultations with the Ivorians, it looks as though the most convenient time for both sides might be late July. The President has told us that the week beginning 25 July would in principle be possible for him. Subject to the Prime Minister's views, we would therefore propose to go firm on 26-29 July inclusive.

Would you let me know whether these dates would be convenient for the Prime Minister? Would it, for example, be possible for the Prime Minister to receive President Houphouet-Boigny for talks followed by luncheon, perhaps on Wednesday, 27 July?

**CLOSED UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT 2000**

*Yes*  
*R B Bone*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



RESTRICTED

Ivory Coast  
JD

15 October 1982

OFFICIAL VISIT  
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE IVORY COAST

Thank you for your letter of 11 October.

The Prime Minister agrees to extend an invitation to President Houphouet-Boigny to visit the United Kingdom in the spring or summer of 1983. I enclose a letter of invitation, signed by the Prime Minister, and should be grateful if you would arrange for its delivery.

AJC

Roger Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.