



Ref. A084/226

MR COLES ✓

The F/C.O. are writing to me  
about all this.

A.F.C. 20.  
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I have seen a copy of your letter of 17 January to Peter Ricketts about the suggestion that the Japanese Prime Minister should be invited to visit the United Kingdom after the Economic Summit.

2. In that letter you also raise the question of President Reagan's plans for the period around the Summit and I should therefore report to you what Mr Allen Wallis, the President's Personal Representative, said to me the other day. Mr Wallis confirmed that President Reagan is planning to visit Ireland before coming to the Summit and said that he currently planned to arrive in the United Kingdom from Ireland on 4 June. The President currently had no firm plans for 5 June although it was possible that he might use this opportunity for bilaterals with the Prime Minister or with any other leader who had already arrived for the Summit. But equally he might wish to use the day as a period of rest and relaxation after his Irish trip and before becoming involved in the Summit. The President definitely intends, however, to attend the D-Day celebrations in Normandy on 6 June, using London as a base for the "day trip". Mr Wallis also said that the President currently envisaged staying with the US Ambassador from his arrival on 4 June until 7 June when he would move into a hotel for the duration of the Summit itself.

3. I am copying this minute to Peter Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

20 January 1984



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 January 1984

JAPAN

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Your letter of 16 January, in which you suggest that the Japanese Prime Minister should be invited to visit the United Kingdom after the Economic Summit, raises a number of questions on which I must seek answers from you before I put the matter to the Prime Minister.

In paragraph 1 of your letter you state that President Reagan and Mr. Trudeau are being invited by President Mitterrand to attend the D-Day 30th anniversary celebrations in Normandy on 6 June. In his minute of 8 November, 1983 Sir Robert Armstrong reported that the idea of President Reagan attending these celebrations did not commend itself in the White House. It would be helpful if we could establish whether it is the intention of the US President to attend these celebrations. If he does so, the question arises of whether the Prime Minister should not herself attend, given this country's role in the Second World War and the possibility of criticism if she is absent. On the other hand, it will not be entirely easy for her to visit Normandy on the day before the Economic Summit opens. I should be grateful for your further thoughts on these points.

I should also be grateful for clarification of the statement in your paragraph 3 that President Reagan and Mr. Trudeau are likely to be in London before the Economic Summit. This would be a major new commitment and I do not think we have heard of it before.

As regards the period immediately following the Summit, the State Visit of course takes place from 12 - 14 June. There would be a certain awkwardness about Mr. Nakasone's presence in London on an official visit at the same time as the State Visit. Add to that that the European Elections will take place on 15 June, with the possibility of Prime Ministerial involvement in the campaign earlier that week, and the difficulties multiply.

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I should be grateful for comments on the above points, in the light of which we will consider whether an invitation to Mr. Nakasone to stay on after the Summit is practicable.

I am copying this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury) Callum McCarthy (Department of Trade and Industry) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A. J. COLES

peter Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 January 1984

Dear John,

Japan

We have heard that Mr Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, plans to combine his visit to London for the Economic Summit on 7-9 June with a European tour, probably taking in Italy, France and West Germany. There is an outstanding invitation to Mr Nakasone to visit Britain, and it would be natural for him to take this up then and extend his stay here by a few days before or after the Summit. Of the other Summit participants, President Reagan and Mr Trudeau are being invited by President Mitterrand to attend the D-Day 30th anniversary celebrations in Normandy on 6 June; the others have not indicated that they wish to be in London any longer than is necessary for the Summit.

The last visit of a Japanese Prime Minister to the UK took place in June 1981 when Mr Suzuki came for two days. Mrs Thatcher visited Japan in November 1982, just before Mr Nakasone succeeded Mr Suzuki. Mr Nakasone and Mrs Thatcher have of course met at the last Economic Summit in Williamsburg. An extended visit this time would maintain the momentum of consultations with Japan, reinforce our relationship and provide an opportunity for more far-reaching bilateral discussions than will be possible during the Summit itself. The Foreign Secretary suggests therefore that the Prime Minister should invite Mr Nakasone to spend some additional days in the UK as HMG's guest at the time of the Summit, preferably afterwards.

Sir H Cortazzi is to pay his farewell call as Ambassador in Tokyo on Mr Nakasone on Wednesday 18 January. Sir Hugh could be instructed to use the opportunity of that meeting to convey the Prime Minister's invitation to Mr Nakasone to stay for a few days. The Japanese will no doubt have their own views on timing in the light of their plans for visits to other European countries, but if you agree it would seem wise for the Ambassador to mention that President Reagan and Mr Trudeau are likely to be in London before the Summit and that Mr Nakasone may therefore find it more convenient to arrange to stay on afterwards. If he does, the programme will have to be arranged to take account of the State Visit which is due to take place in the week beginning ~~14~~ June. In any event, it would be easier for the two Prime Ministers to concentrate on other multilateral and bilateral issues once the Summit was out of the way.

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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The Japanese Foreign Minister and Finance Minister are expected to attend the Summit together with Mr Nakasone, and the Japanese Minister for International Trade and Industry might also come if the example of Japanese attendance at Williamsburg is followed. Any of the three Ministers might choose to remain for the bilateral part of the visit. I am therefore copying this letter to John Kerr (Treasury), Callum McCarthy (DTI), and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours ever,*

*P F Ricketts*

P F Ricketts  
Private Secretary

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