

PRIME MINISTER

c. Mr. Pattison

①

UN SECOND SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

You asked (see attached minute) what your diary looked like for the period covering the opening of this meeting.

The Disarmament Session runs from 7 June to 9 July.

You will have President Reagan here from 7 - 9 June and will be at the NATO Summit on 10 June.

Lord Carrington's proposal is that you should address the Disarmament Session on the afternoon of 15 June. This is not strictly the "Opening of the Session" but it falls within the period when Heads of Government will be visiting New York and speaking. The Belgian Prime Minister will be delivering the EC statement on 8 June and will be followed later that week by Chancellor Schmidt and the US representative. So Western representation in the first week is good. What we need is good representation in the second week as well.

Mr. Ken Marks, M.P. has a Parliamentary Question for you tomorrow "to ask the Prime Minister if she will seek to address the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in June". If you are now disposed to go, there would be advantage in saying so orally in reply to a Conservative M.P. at Questions tomorrow (Mr. Marks' Question will not be reached).

May I remind you that you are missing Question Time on Thursday, 10 June because of the NATO Summit. If you did not wish to miss Questions again on Tuesday, 15 June we could see whether we could find another speaking slot early that week.

Agree to announce in reply to an Oral Question tomorrow that you will visit New York to speak to the Disarmament Session?

Agree that we should look for a speaking slot which will enable you to attend Questions on 15 June but that failing that we should maintain our present provisional arrangement for you

/to speak

*I don't think we can have been no time for speech upon and I need to have something*

*NATO summit because of structure of Questions*

*If a suitable date can be found*

to speak on the afternoon of 15 June?

A. J. C.

There is far too much on  
foreign affairs in my programme.  
It just won't do. We have got  
to cut down

15 March 1982



United Nations file BS

B/F?

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 March 1982

U.N. Second Special Session on Disarmament

Would you please refer to my letter of 3 March.

The Prime Minister has decided to attend the Special Session to deliver the UK speech. She so informed Parliament this afternoon in an oral answer.

1  
We now need to reach early agreement on a date and time for the Prime Minister's speech. You said earlier that a provisional speaking slot had been reserved for the afternoon of Tuesday, 15 June. I should be grateful if possible alternatives could be examined. For example, would it be possible for the Prime Minister to leave London after Questions on 15 June and speak in New York on Wednesday 16 June before returning to London on the night of 16/17 June? Could you also establish whether there would be any possibility of the Prime Minister speaking on Friday, 18 June (though you may think it is not advisable for Mrs Thatcher to address the Assembly at the end of the week). In the light of your views, the Prime Minister would take a final decision on the date of her speech.

2  
It may be helpful if I point out now that the Prime Minister's visit to New York will be preceded by an extremely busy two weeks on the foreign affairs front and that she will therefore have much less time than usual to work on a major speech. I therefore think we should aim to produce a draft for the Prime Minister's consideration before the Whitsun recess. The Prime Minister may wish to have a word about the contents with an FCO Minister before the drafting work is put in hand.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Omand (Ministry of Defence).

A. J. COLES

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.