



2 fbs

MO 27/5/1/1

PRIME MINISTERMOUNTBATTEN STATUE

You will recall launching an appeal, by a letter to the Times in July 1981, to fund the erection of a statue on the Foreign Office Green to commemorate Earl Mountbatten of Burma. At your request Francis Pym, and in due course John Nott, undertook the supervision of the statue project, and your office has been kept in touch as various important stages have been reached.

2. We are now well down the road towards completion, and the time has come to bring two issues to your attention which need to be resolved: a shortfall in funding and arrangements for the unveiling ceremony.

3. Our problems with funding were touched on in my Private Secretary's letter of 26th November 1982. As Environment Secretary I was able to prevail upon the Treasury to grant a measure of relief by agreeing that only a token sum should be paid for maintenance; but for various reasons we still face a shortfall in the region of £22-27,000 over and above the £100,000 that we shall have available from the Appeal. As you will have seen I have written to the Chancellor with a more detailed description of the background and a recommendation that the deficit should now be made up from public funds as provided for in your original directive to Francis Pym in September 1980.



4.

5. The detailed planning of the ceremony and the guest-list is about to get underway here, and I shall be keeping an eye on the developing picture. However, we need to decide both who will preside at the unveiling ceremony * ~~~~~~~~~ * and who will act as host at the luncheon. I would myself strongly advise that you should do both yourself. If you agree, I will put to you the broad outline of what we have in mind as soon as the way ahead is a little clearer.

W. S. B.

Ministry of Defence

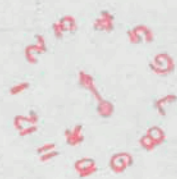
11th March 1983

*Passages deleted and closed,
40 years, under FOI
Exemption. C. Wayland
19 July 2013*

MOUNTBATTEN STATUE PROJECT: PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS AS AT MARCH 1983

- (a) The Appeal has achieved its target of £100,000; with interest about £110,000 will be available for the statue project. But because of unforeseen problems with the infrastructure this will not be enough.
- (b) A sculptor (Mr. Franta Belsky) has been selected from a limited competition of six and commissioned to produce a Statue at a cost of £35,000. The outcome of the competition was announced last December. The statue will be 1½ times life-size.
- (c) The statue design has been endorsed by the Royal Fine Art Commission (RFAC) and Mr. Belsky is well advanced with work on the full-scale figure. The Mountbatten family and the Royal Family are taking a close personal interest in its progress.
- (d) The infrastructure design has been a source of some problems, both aesthetic - necessitating three successive approaches to the RFAC - and financial. ('Infrastructure' is used to denote the supporting structure required to raise the statue and its plinth and prevent them from being lost against their background). The preferred design, which has RFAC approval, is a shallow stepped pyramid of stone.
- (e) Clearances of the whole design (statue and infrastructure) will need to be obtained from the City of Westminster planning authority and the Secretary of State for the Environment before the work of construction can proceed. Both have been kept closely in touch with developments so far.

14 MAR 1983



PRIME MINISTER

MOUNTBATTEN MEMORIAL

The attached minute from Mr. Heseltine reports that he is having to ask the Treasury to put up some £25,000 towards the £125,000 cost of this Memorial. He also asks if you would be willing to preside over the ceremony at which The Queen will unveil the statue, and also if you will host a lunch for the most important of the guests afterwards.

Briefly, the unveiling ceremony would involve your making a speech in tribute to Lord Mountbatten and then inviting The Queen to perform the unveiling. *

* You would then walk back with the Royal Party from the Foreign Office Green (on which the statue will be erected) to host a lunch for about 40 or 50 people in Downing Street. The rest of the guests would go on to have a buffet lunch in the Banqueting House in Whitehall.

At present the plan is to hold the ceremony in late October or early November. Would you like to take this on, in principle?

WM

Yes mt

* ~ * Passage deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemption.

14 March 1983

Wayland
19 July 2013

IN CONFIDENCE

file 16

C. W. Stephens

16 March 1983

MOUNTBATTEN MEMORIAL

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 11 March.

She has noted that he has sought authority from the Treasury to make up from public funds the costs of this memorial not met from the Appeal.

The Prime Minister has agreed in principle to preside at the unveiling ceremony, at which she will make a speech, and to host a lunch afterwards at Downing Street. She notes that your Secretary of State will put to her more detailed suggestions on the programme nearer the time.

WR

Miss Jane Ridley,
Ministry of Defence.

IN CONFIDENCE"

IN CONFIDENCE



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
DIRECT DIALING 01-218 2111/3

MO 27/5/1/1

11th May 1983

See below

DR 13/5

Thank you for your letter of 30th March about the Mountbatten Statue.

I note that you are content for the balance of the cost of the infrastructure to be found from MOD funds; appropriate arrangements are being made. As you say I shall continue to do all I can to keep costs down to the practicable minimum.

On the question of commuted maintenance costs, you will by now have seen Tom King's letter to you of 3rd May. I agree that there should be a way of avoiding a book-keeping transaction, and that we can leave it to our officials to sort out.

I have copied this to the Prime Minister, to Tom King and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

yes ev

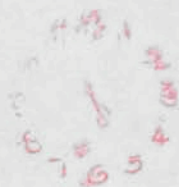
Michael Heseltine

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan MP

IN CONFIDENCE

Royal Family: Mountbatten
Pt 2

13 MAY 1983





2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref: K/PSO/11967/83

Your ref:

-3 MAY 83

Dear Leon,

4/5

MOUNTBATTEN STATUE

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 30 March to Michael Heseltine about the Mountbatten Statue.

I am sure that between us we can find a way of avoiding the book-keeping transaction which the contribution of £5,000 towards commuted maintenance costs would involve. I am satisfied that this would not prejudice the principle, which is firmly established and followed in practice. The defence of it in this particular case is ample evidence of this fact. I suggest that Michael and I leave it to our various officials to work out in detail with yours how this can be satisfactorily brought about.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, to Michael Heseltine and Sir Robert Armstrong.

TOM KING

Royal Family,
Mountbatten Memorial,
A72

4 MAY 1983



IN CONFIDENCE



Dr

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

31/3

Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

30 March 1983

D. Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 9 March to Geoffrey Howe about the Mountbatten Statue. We are both pleased to learn that this is going ahead so well.

From the breakdown of costs I have been given, the infrastructure now looks surprisingly expensive in relation to the statue itself. I note that on the advice of the sculptor and of the Royal Fine Arts Commission you have felt obliged to rule out the cheaper alternatives so far considered; but I am sure you will continue to do all you can to keep the cost down to the practicable minimum. On that understanding I am content that MOD funds should make up the balance within the amount indicated by the current estimated cost of the project.

I believe that your figures include a payment of £5,000 to DOE which was earlier agreed by the Treasury as a contribution towards commuted maintenance costs. If you and Tom King can see a way of avoiding the bookkeeping transaction which this would involve without prejudicing the principle of commuted maintenance, I would raise no objection.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, to Tom King and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Leon
Brittan

LEON BRITTAN

IN CONFIDENCE

Royal Family: Mountbatten
Memorial Pt 2



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
DIRECT DIALLING 01-218 2111/3

MO 27/5/1/1

9th March 1983

De Bussy

I wrote to you from the Department of Environment about proposed maintenance charges for the Mountbatten Statue.

I have now taken stock here of the overall progress. Work on the statue is well in hand. *Passage deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemption. O'Wayland, 19 July 2013*

Decisions must therefore be taken quickly on the base and infrastructure if the site is to be ready in time.

Much progress has been made. A plan has been prepared which is acceptable to the family, the Royal Fine Art Commission, the DOE (from the point of view of simplicity of maintenance), the sculptor and the Trustees. MacAlpines are prepared to carry it out at cost price. But even with that generous help the scheme will cost some £22,000-£27,000 more than the resources of the Fund. The latter is an absolute maximum over which MacAlpines will bear any excess, but it is more likely that they can hold the costs to the lower figure.

An alternative cheaper plan, involving a grass mound rather than a stepped stone pyramid, has been considered but has been ruled out on aesthetic grounds by the Royal Fine Art Commission. I have no doubt that we must finish the job properly and the Prime Minister said



in her original minute on the subject of 22nd September 1980 that "the Government should take steps to ensure that any shortfall is met".

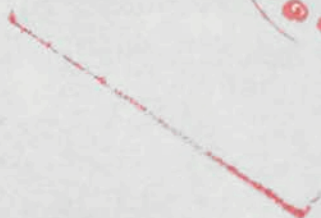
I therefore would like your early authority to make up from public funds the balance needed to meet the costs. The Trustees (and I am becoming one) will ensure that this is kept to a minimum. MacAlpines need to be given a firm go-ahead by Easter. Such an arrangement would mean that the Appeal would have continued about £110,000 and public funds £22,000-£27,000. I would regard these proportions as defensible. Half of the public funds will return in VAT!

I am sending copies of this to the Prime Minister, to Tom King and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours aw

Michael Heseltine

4 MAR 1983





Royal Family
NSRM
ms 20/9

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
DIRECT DIALLING 01-218 2111/3

MO 27/5/1/1

7th September 1982

Dear Michael

MOUNTBATTEN STATUE

Thank you very much for your letter of 3rd September. TPT

I understand that Mr Belsky has now produced a revised and more modest proposal for the base and setting of the statue, and that this will be considered by the assessors and by the Royal Fine Art Commission during the course of this week. It may therefore be possible to seek your formal assent under the Public Statues Act quite soon. Nevertheless the additional flexibility inherent in the procedure to which you have agreed, namely that the trustees may if necessary authorise Mr Belsky to start work on the statue itself while at the same time your powers under the Act are reserved pending revised proposals for the layout, is most helpful; and I write to confirm my own agreement also. It is understood that any risk of abortive expenditure would fall on the appeal fund and not on either of our Departments.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister.

Yours ever
John

John Nott

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP



Prime Minister

(4)

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

MUS 6/9

My ref:

Your ref:

-3 SEP 82

MOUNTBATTEN STATUE

I understand that a problem has arisen over the design by Mr Franta Belski for the statue of Lord Mountbatten which it has been agreed should be erected on Foreign Office Green.

The difficulty I am told centres around the base for the statue which is a raised area of steps in the shape of a compass rose with water running from fountains at each of the corners. This would substantially increase the construction cost, while the commuted sum which my Department would have to seek for maintenance in perpetuity would be of the order of £1m. Moreover the Royal Fine Art Commission, although content with the statue itself, have raised a number of other practical and aesthetic considerations in relation to this setting. As a result Mr Belski is now reviewing his proposals with professional assistance with a view to proposing a simpler concept involving a grass mound with steps at the corners and without any water.

I can well understand that your Department would not wish to hold up starting of work on the statue itself while this is going on, especially as I believe it will take him at least a year to sculpt and you are aiming for an unveiling ceremony in the Autumn of next year. The assessors approve of this procedure and you would wish to know that I am content with it as well.

I am quite content with the proposal for the statue itself as it stands so far but I am not in a position, as you will appreciate, to give my formal assent under the Public Statues Act until I know how it is to be mounted. Nor can I incidentally give such formal assent until the commuted maintenance sum has been agreed and approved by the Treasury. I understand that the Royal Fine Art Commission are happy for work to proceed on the statue itself meanwhile and that your Steering Group accept that any risk of abortive expenditure would fall on the appeal fund and not on either of our Departments.

In these circumstances I have no objection to the trustees authorising Mr Belski to start work on the statue, whilst at the same time reserving my powers under the Public Statues Act when revised proposals for the layout are put forward.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister. If I have received no objections by Friday 17 September I shall assume that this procedure is agreed between all concerned.

Yours ever
MHE

MICHAEL HESELTINE