



Prime Minister

Would you like to see  
Ed Meese?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 April 1983

A.J.C.  $\frac{22}{4}$

John Kerr

Visit to London by Mr Ed Meese

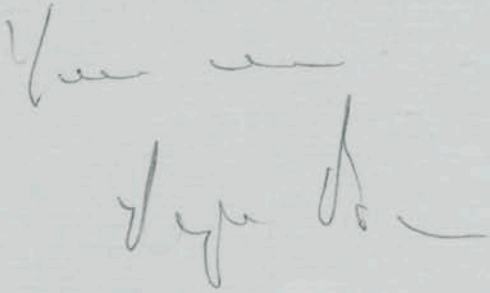
The American Embassy have asked whether Mr Ed Meese, Counsellor to President Reagan, could pay a courtesy call on the Prime Minister on 4 or 6 May. They have also asked for calls on the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and on the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr Meese will be visiting Britain from 3 to 7 May in order to give the Mountbatten Memorial Lecture at Cambridge on the subject of the Atlantic Alliance.

Mr Meese's visit falls two weeks before the Prime Minister's own visit to Washington. As one of Mr Reagan's top three advisers he should be able to provide a useful insight into the President's thinking on the eve of Williamsburg. The Embassy in Washington have recommended that the Prime Minister might therefore find it of interest to see him.

Mr Meese will be free from 4 p.m. until dinner time on 4 May and on the afternoon of 6 May. Would you let me know whether the Prime Minister would like to see him on one of those days?

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Kerr and would be grateful to know whether the Chancellor would like Mr Meese to call on him.

I enclose a biographical note. Mr Meese is a lawyer by profession and has been closely involved in the preparation of proposals to strengthen the criminal code in the United States. While in Britain, in addition to lecturing in Cambridge, he will be spending a day with Scotland Yard and will visit a Police Academy.

  
(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



EDWIN MEESE III

Counsellor to the President

Born 1931 in Oakland, California. 1953 graduated from Yale University. He then entered the Berkeley Law School. 1958-66 worked as Deputy District Attorney in California. 1967 appointed by the new Governor of California (Ronald Reagan) as his legal affairs secretary. 1970-74 served as Chief of Staff during Mr Reagan's second term as Governor. 1975-76 Vice-President for Administration at Rohr Industries, a California aerospace firm. 1976-77 private law practice. 1977-78 founder and Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice and Policy Management at San Diego Law School. 1978-80 Professor of Criminal Justice at San Diego Law School. 1980 joined Mr Reagan's Presidential campaign as Political Adviser. Later became Chief of Staff of the Reagan campaign. November 1980 Director of President Reagan's transition team. 1981 appointed Counsellor, ie policy coordinator, to the President. Married with three children.

Ed Meese was, for the first year of the Reagan Presidency, the undisputed leader of the so-called troika (also including Baker and Deaver) who ran the White House. He is, however, not quite so close personally to the President as Deaver. Moreover, while he was to focus on policy and Baker on management, Baker has played an increasingly prominent part in determining policy. These factors, combined with the key role now played by Judge Clark as National Security Adviser, and disagreements among the group, have slightly reduced Meese's prominence

CONFIDENTIAL



prominence in the White House team though he remains the senior member of the group and the principal White House public figure below Presidential level. He regularly appears on major TV interviews to explain government policy.

~~Mr Meese was admitted to hospital on 10 May for X-ray tests after complaining of lower back pain. He was said to be exhausted from overwork.~~ Meese is large, friendly, but tough. During the scandals associated with the former National Security Adviser (Richard Allen) Meese took Allen's part but dropped him when it became clear that Allen was a serious liability to the Administration.

As a Deputy District Attorney in California in the early 1960s, Meese took a close interest in police work and developed a reputation as a strong law and order man. He played a key part in putting down anti-draft protests in the mid-1960s.

There have been rumours that Meese would like to leave the White House for a senior government appointment, eg as Attorney General of the United States.

CONFIDENTIAL



GR 300

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 182050Z APR 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1027 OF 18 APRIL

NAD'S TELELETTER OF 6 APRIL: VISIT TO LONDON OF ED MEESE

1. THE WHITE HOUSE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ED MEESE, COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT, WILL BE VISITING BRITAIN FROM 3-7 MAY TO GIVE THE MOUNT-BATTEN MEMORIAL LECTURE AT CAMBRIDGE. MEESE HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR LOUIS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON CALLS THAT HE MIGHT MAKE ON MINISTERS AND IS CONTENT TO FOLLOW LOUIS'S ADVICE.

2. MEESE IS ONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S TOP THREE ADVISORS AND IS VERY CLOSE TO HIM IN PERSONAL TERMS. GIVEN THAT HE WILL BE IN LONDON A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, I THINK THAT YOU AND THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD FIND IT INTERESTING TO HAVE A TALK WITH MEESE WHO IS WELL PLACED TO GIVE AN INSIGHT INTO THE PRESIDENT'S THINKING AND INTO CURRENT POLITICAL PREOCCUPATIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT KNOW WHAT CALLS AMBASSADOR LOUIS WILL RECOMMEND, I THINK IT WOULD ALSO BE WORTHWHILE FOR OTHER CABINET MINISTERS TO SEE MR MEESE IF HE ASKS TO CALL ON THEM. WHILE HE DOES NOT HAVE AN EYE FOR THE SMALL PRINT, HE WOULD CERTAINLY CONVEY TO THE PRESIDENT A POLITICAL MESSAGE ABOUT SOME OF OUR CONCERNS EG. OVER U.S. INTEREST RATES, THE US CIVIL AVIATION ANTI-TRUST CASE AND THE EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT.

4. MEESE, A LAWYER BY PROFESSION, HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN LAW AND ORDER ISSUES AND HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS TO TOUGHEN UP THE CRIMINAL CODE IN THE UNITED STATES

WRIGHT

STANDARD

NAD

**THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED**

**CONFIDENTIAL**





ccmt ru  
USA

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

25 April 1983

BT

Visit to London by Mr. Ed Meese

Thank you for your letter of 22 April.  
The Prime Minister would like to see Mr. Meese  
and hopes that this can be arranged for 1030  
on Friday 6 May.

I am copying this letter to John Kerr  
(H.M. Treasury).

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NR



Prime Minister 10 DOWNING STREET

Call by Ed Reese

- He proposes to be accompanied  
by the U.S. Ambassador + 1.  
2. Tony Danan would also like  
to come.  
3. Are you content with such  
a big meeting?  
or would you prefer tête-à-  
tête and notables?

Whatever A.J.C.  $\frac{3}{5}$   
they want no



**10 DOWNING STREET**

MR. COLES

Paul Schlam of the American Embassy 'phoned to say that Ambassador Lewis and Richard McCormack (Political Counsellor) will be at the meeting tomorrow with Ed Meese. They will be coming separately from Mr. Meese.

BM  
3/5



## MAIN SUBJECTS TO RAISE WITH ED MEESE

### Williamsburg

What does the President want?

Damp down expectations.

Stop East-West becoming divisive.

### State of the Alliance

Shall speak about this in Washington on 27 May - and especially against anti-Americanism.

Cooperated well over INF.

But pipeline a bad example of cooperation.

Feeling now building up against new Export Administration Act and anti-trust action against our airlines.

### Central America

Support US objectives.

### Middle East

Right to send Shultz there.

How is he getting on?



ATC

~~X~~

Caroline



May we discuss  
a new time pl?

A.S.C. 26/4

10 DOWNING STREET

Foreign Office have checked  
with the US Embassy and  
Mr Meese will find it  
"extremely difficult" to  
see the PM at 10.30  
on 6 May.

They asked whether the  
other dates they suggested,  
at 16.00 hrs to dinner time on  
4 May or the afternoon of  
6 May, were impossible.

I attach the pp's.

~~X~~ ATC ✓ on 27/4

Have told

FCO 16.15-17.00  
on Wed 4/5

Mark  
26/4/83.



10 DOWNING STREET

Caroline

Can you suggest a time (at  
least 45 minutes), preferably on  
6 May?

A.S.C. 25/4

Friday 6 May

10.30 - 11.30.

Cf. 25/4