

Prime Minister

cc PL
AC
BT



Agree to accept this remarkable honour?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Agree to a short ceremony on the day of arrival? (You get in at 3.30 pm local time, or 8.30 pm by your internal clock).

London SW1A 2AH

8 June 1988

Officed by

Dear Charles,

CPD 8/6

Invitation to the Prime Minister to be an Honorary Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada

The Prime Minister has been invited by the Acting Treasurer of the Law Society to be appointed an Honorary Bencher of the Society during her visit to Toronto in June.

This award is considered a particularly high honour in Canada. The Benchers constitute the cream of the legal profession. There are at present only 2 honorary Benchers, one of whom is Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Formed in 1797, the Law Society governs the affairs of 35,000 lawyers, mainly in Ontario, constitutes a major outpost of British common law tradition and maintains regular links with the British legal profession through biennial conferences at Cambridge. Given the Prime Minister's own legal background, the award would be an entirely natural one.

The law society's headquarters are at Osgoode Hall, a fine building in central Toronto close to the King Edward Hotel where the PM will be staying. The Benchers would fall in with the Prime Minister's wishes regarding the character of the ceremony (ie avoid a meal and keep it short) and media access. There would be no need, unless the Prime Minister wished, to respond with more than a short speech of thanks.

The complete ceremony, including travel to and from the hotel, need not occupy more than an hour. While we realise from your efforts to find an alternative slot for the Italian Prime Minister that you wish to spare Mrs Thatcher any engagements in the evening of arrival, we should welcome your view on whether she would wish to make an exception in this case, given that the event should attract media interest and focus it on the Prime Minister right from the beginnog of the Summit. If so, we could perhaps aim for the Benchers award ceremony to take place at 1700 or 1730 (ie 11 or 1130 p.m. London time).

Yours ever,

L Parker
(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street