



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

You have already warned Lord Bethell of the "complications"

which a message from you would involve. There is no need for you to write again at present. 23 June 1981

But, if you agree with the FCO advice, there would probably be advantage in my suggesting Lord Bethell & suggesting that he should not proceed any further with the idea of a message. Agree?

Dear Michael,

Yalta Memorial

Print 24/6

You asked in your letter of 11 June for advice on whether the Prime Minister should send a message to the organising committee on the occasion of the unveiling of this memorial.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary believes that it would be wise for the Prime Minister to decline Lord Bethell's request, for the same reasons as she decided against accepting his invitation to unveil the memorial. As you know, the Prime Minister told Lord Bethell last year that permission to erect a memorial on Crown Land was given on condition that the inscription was uncontroversial and did not seek to impute guilt to previous British Governments. This was accepted by the organising committee, but at their subsequent press conference Lord Bethell and Sir Bernard Braine were quoted as having made their own views on the matter very plain. This will no doubt be the case also at the dedication ceremony itself, when any message from the Prime Minister would presumably be read out. In view of the Written Answer given by the Prime Minister in the Commons on 10 July 1980 (Hansard extract enclosed) Lord Carrington considers that it would be a mistake for her to involve herself in possible further controversy.

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1

I have spoken to Lord Bethell. He has agreed not to ask for a message.

Print 29/6

also written to my right hon. Friend proposing a meeting to discuss this matter, and that this proposal has been accepted.

ACT OF SETTLEMENT

Rev. Ian Paisley asked the Prime Minister if she will publish the letter which she has received from the leaders of the Orange Institution in the United Kingdom regarding the operation of the Act of Settlement; and what reply she has sent.

The Prime Minister: The Rev. Martin Smyth wrote to me on 7 May and my office replied on my behalf on 28 May. It is not my normal practice to publish exchanges of correspondence, but the Rev. Martin Smyth is at liberty to do so if he wishes.

Rev. Ian Paisley asked the Prime Minister whether Her Majesty's Government propose to take steps to seek to alter the provisions of the Act of Settlement which prohibits the Monarch from becoming a Roman Catholic or marrying a Roman Catholic.

The Prime Minister: As I told the House in 8 July, the Act of Settlement remains in force and the Government have no plans to change it.

Mr. Michael Brown asked the Prime Minister what representations she has received relating to the amendment of the Act of Settlement; and what replies she has sent.

The Prime Minister: The Rev. Martin Smyth wrote to me on 7 May, and my office replied on my behalf on 28 May. In addition, I have received a few letters on this subject this week.

Mr. Michael Brown asked the Prime Minister whether she has any proposals for introducing legislation at any stage during the lifetime of the present Parliament to amend the Act of Settlement.

The Prime Minister: As I told the House on 8 July, the Act of Settlement remains in force and the Government have no plans to change it.

BRITISH ACADEMY

Mr. Teddy Taylor asked the Prime Minister if she will review the procedure by which the British Academy is used as the vehicle by which public funds are distributed to other bodies in the light of the academy's failure to remove from its list of fellows a self-confessed Soviet agent, Professor Antony Blunt.

The Prime Minister: I have full confidence in the way the British Academy administers its grant and do not therefore propose any changes. The question of Professor Blunt's fellowship is for the Academy.

BRANDT COMMISSION

Mr. Ioan Evans asked the Prime Minister whether Her Majesty's Government have yet reached a conclusion as to which of the Brandt Commission proposals they intend to endorse.

The Prime Minister: The Government will shortly submit a memorandum on this subject to the Overseas Development Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

YALTA MEMORIAL

Mrs. Knight asked the Prime Minister on what grounds permission was given for a memorial to the "victims of Yalta" to be erected on Crown Land; and if she will make a statement.

The Prime Minister: The purpose of the memorial is to commemorate those who died. The Government agreed to the memorial being erected on Crown Land on condition that this purpose was strictly observed. The planned inscription does so. It passes no judgment either on the policies of Governments in the relevant period or on the actions of those who made and carried out those policies.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Official Paid Envelopes

Mr. Wrigglesworth asked the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if, in view of the Government's decision to cease using official paid envelopes in the Civil Service, he intends to dispense with their use in the House.

Mr. Beith asked the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether sure that whatever change the use of pre-paid envelope Department, they will be available for use by Parliament on parliamentary

Mr. St. John-Stevas: I plan to do so, but I shall matter with the Post Office Majesty's Stationery Office the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Hong Kong

Mr. Canavan asked the whether he will arrange to error of Hong Kong to cumstances surrounding late Inspector John Ma Royal Hong Kong police

Mr. Blaker: I shall Governor on 14 July, when he is in this country discuss this topic with announced in Hong Kong a judicial inquiry is being amine the circumstances death of Inspector Macl

WALES

Welsh Language

Mr. Wigley asked State for Wales what have been made available tion authorities in Wales to implement the recon Council for the Welsh nursery education as set 24 of that report; and education authorities tage of any such prov

Mr. D. E. Thomas of State for Wales w sources have been made Department to increase the under-fives in the tapes, films and pictu with the recommendations of the report on nur the Council for the We



Memorials
file

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 June 1981

YALTA MEMORIAL

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 23 June on this subject and has accepted the advice therein. I have spoken to Lord Bethell. He will not be pursuing the idea of a Prime Ministerial message for the opening ceremony.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

F. N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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