

H. R.

PRIME MINISTER

POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE

You will remember that Brian Crozier suggested that you should go to Paris to receive the Prix Politique Internationale at any date which is convenient to you. You asked me to check this out with the FCO.

I attach the FCO advice. The magazine Politique Internationale is seen in France as markedly right wing. The prize has only been awarded once before - to President Sadat posthumously. If you went, you could make a major speech and get good coverage for it.

But I doubt if it is worth a special visit. You could combine acceptance of the prize with attendance at the European Council on 25/26 June or with the next annual bilateral which will be in the autumn.

Shall we tell Brian Crozier that you accept the idea in principle, but would not wish to be fully committed until about spring of next year when we would see whether the event could be combined with some other visit to France?

*Very much
regret
mb*

A. J. C.

1 December 1983

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 November, 1983

Jon Stan

Politique Internationale

Thank you for your letter of 11 November asking for information about the prize that this magazine wishes to award the Prime Minister and for advice on whether she should visit France and accept it. We have consulted the Ambassador at Paris, and the following reflects his advice.

Politique Internationale was set up 1978 as a French equivalent to Foreign Affairs. There are two main magazines in the foreign affairs field published in France. The other is Politique Etrangere, the house magazine of the Institut Francais des Relations Internationales, the French equivalent of Chatham House. Of the two, Politique Internationale has by far the larger circulation - 100,000 as against about 5,000 - but a fairly high proportion of the copies appear to be given away.

The launching of Politique Internationale had the support of M. Jacques Chirac (whom the Prime Minister is seeing this week). It is seen in France as markedly right-wing, but it is not consistently critical of the present French Government and a recent edition contained a long interview with M. Claude Cheysson on French foreign policy.

As for the prize, it has only been awarded once before, to President Sadat posthumously. Although the Prime Minister's acceptance of the prize would do more for the magazine and its editor than for her, you may think that this is not in itself a reason for not accepting the prize. The occasion of the presentation would provide a good opportunity for the Prime Minister to make a major speech in Paris, for which we could hope to achieve some television coverage. Sir Geoffrey Howe would therefore see advantage in the Prime Minister accepting the prize.

In selecting a date, you might take into account that the Prime Minister will be travelling to France on 25-26 June for the European Council. She will also be visiting France again later in the year for the annual bilateral Summit.

Jon Stan
R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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