



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Agree to receive this
delegation in July?

24 May 1984

A.C. 24/5.

John Taylor,

Yes not

Visit of Senior Guinean Government Ministers

The new Guinean President has told our Ambassador that a Guinean delegation comprising the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the Minister of Cooperation will be visiting a number of European capitals in June or July to explain the new Government's policies. The President expressed the hope that the delegation would be received in London.

Since they seized power in a bloodless coup in April, following the death of Sekou Toure, the new regime in Guinea has declared itself non-aligned and has demonstrated that it intends to reduce substantially the influence which Eastern bloc countries previously exercised in Guinea. The West Germans have been asked to provide replacements for Technical Cooperation posts presently occupied by East Germans, and it is reported that the French have been or will be asked to provide replacements for the existing Soviet military advisers. On the domestic front the new Government have committed themselves to establishing a form of democracy based on the UN Charter, and have promised an end to the repression and corruption prevalent during the late President Sekou Toure's regime; as a first step they have released all political prisoners and restored freedom of the press and the media. HM The Queen, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary sent messages to the Guinean leader after the coup and these messages were very well received.

During the coming European tour the delegation will be received in France, Italy and Germany, although it is not yet known at what level. These countries have greater economic interests in Guinea than we do and have already promised assistance to the new regime. Guinea is potentially one of the richest countries in Africa and it is in our own interest also to devote some attention to the country. We therefore propose to agree to receive the delegation.

/Given



Given the short time the new regime has been in power and the little we know of the members of the new Government, it is difficult to comment on the real influence which individual members of the delegation wield in Guinea. However, it is generally believed that it is the new Foreign Minister who is providing the new regime's intellectual horsepower. The new Prime Minister may have been the military guiding-hand behind the coup and is considered by some observers to be the strong man in the new regime. What is already clear is that both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister will have a major role to play in the shaping of Guinea's future and we would do well to cultivate them now. Not surprisingly, the new regime is very inexperienced, particularly in economic matters. The proposed visit would provide us with an opportunity to put across our own views at some length and to influence the new government in the right direction at a formative stage in the development of the regime's policies not only on African questions but on other problems such as the Falkland Islands or Law of the Sea, where Guinean support would be useful to us.

The delegation would undoubtedly hope to have talks with the Prime Minister. We consider that courtesy calls on her and the Foreign Secretary, and the offer of more substantive talks with Mr Rifkind and Mr Raison, would suffice. We believe that the delegation would prefer to come in early June when both the Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey are already heavily committed. Our reply to the Guinean President would make clear that a visit in July would be preferable and that if the Guineans persist in wanting a visit in June they run the risk of meeting neither the Prime Minister nor the Foreign Secretary.

There is no question of inviting the delegation as guests of government nor any suggestion that the Prime Minister should offer them hospitality. However, it is proposed that, exceptionally, we should meet the delegation's in-country expenses as a gesture of goodwill on this their first visit to London.

I should be grateful if you would let me know whether the Prime Minister would be prepared in principle to receive the delegation for a short courtesy call.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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MJ

cc Sir P Cradock

22 June 1984

Visit by Senior Guinean Government
Ministers

BF
Thank you for your letter of 20 June about the proposed call on the Prime Minister by the Prime Minister and Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Guinea. The Prime Minister would be ready to see them for a short courtesy call at 1630 on Wednesday 4 July. I should be grateful if you would provide me with the necessary briefing in good time. You will no doubt be making the necessary arrangements for interpretation.

CP

Roger Bone Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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XCPC
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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Charles
12.30 - 1700 wed 4 July
20 June 1984

Jon Charles,

Visit by Senior Guinean Government Ministers

In your letter of 25 May you said that the Prime Minister was prepared in principle to receive in July a delegation comprising the Guinean Prime Minister and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The Guinean Ambassador in Paris who is also accredited to the UK has now asked on what dates the visit should take place. We would like to suggest 4 and 5 July, since, to judge from our soundings, these are the dates on which it looks as if we could be confident of arranging a satisfactory programme. Would you let me know whether the Prime Minister would be able to see the delegation for a short courtesy call on either of these dates?

The delegation visited Paris from 12-14 June and were seen by President Mitterrand and M. Cheysson.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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20 JUN 1984





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Jice

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 May, 1984.

Thank you for your letter of 24 May about the forthcoming visit of a delegation of Senior Guinean Government Ministers. The Prime Minister would be prepared in principle to receive the delegation for a short courtesy call in July, and she has agreed therefore that our response to the Guineans should be along the lines proposed.

BF
no meeting
arranged.

Timothy Flesher

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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