

1 copy  
Feb 8.1.



Prime Minister.

These are the proposed arrangements for the VE Day commemoration.

They seem generally in line with your views, except perhaps on the question of a reception afterwards (para. 12 of accompanying note).

MO 27/5/1

Agree proposed arrangements?

Wish to pursue further idea of a diplomatic

PRIME MINISTER

reception at No. 10? You will see that

para. 12 of the Report comes out against a Reception.

C.D.T. 2/3

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

On 14th February, you announced in the House of Commons that, as part of the arrangements to commemorate the end of the Second World War, a service would be held at Westminster Abbey on 8th May. It was stated that this service would commemorate the sacrifices made in all the theatres of war; that we would seek the widest participation from this country of those who contributed to the victory; and that the Ambassadors or High Commissioners of all countries represented in London would be invited.

2. Officials in this Department have since been involved in working up the detailed arrangements for the service. I attach a report which they have prepared, and which I have approved. I would like to expand on two of the categories of those who will be invited:

a. Parliamentary representatives. We are currently thinking in terms of inviting those Ministers and other politicians who are normally present at the Cenotaph ceremony, numbering about 40. The Whips in both Houses would then be asked to suggest appropriate candidates for the remaining 80 places allocated to parliamentary representatives.

b. Veterans. The Royal British Legion will have an important part to play in allocating seats to the various veterans associations. I am in no doubt that they will carry out this task with sensitivity and complete fairness; nevertheless it is an area which could be subject to controversy.



We therefore believe it would be helpful to provide guidelines on how the seats are to be allocated. The RBL have indicated that they would be content with such an approach, and the guidelines have been approved by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and myself.

3. The arrangements in Westminster Abbey are, of course, for the Dean to decide and officials here are in close touch with him.

However, we do need to go firm now on the lists of those who should be invited to submit names to attend. I would therefore be grateful / for your agreement to the principles set out in the attached report.

4. I am copying this minute to other members of the Cabinet, to the Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*W. H. H.*

Ministry of Defence  
19th March 1985

20 MAR 1985

9 10 11 12 1  
8 7 6 5 4 3

ГОМДОМ

III

СОВЕТСКОМ





*file*

*RAMA 10 RM*

*CCPL*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 March, 1985

*Dear Richard,*

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The Prime Minister has considered the Defence Secretary's minute of 19 March on this subject with the accompanying report by officials on the detailed arrangements for the Service of Commemoration at Westminster Abbey.

Subject to the views of colleagues the Prime Minister is content with the arrangements proposed and agrees that it would not be appropriate on this occasion to hold a reception following the Service.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of the Cabinet and to Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely  
C D Powell*

(C D Powell)

R Mottram, Esq.,  
Ministry of Defence.

*[Handwritten mark]*

Mark



10 DOWNING STREET

Who is invited?  
(PM + DT?  
Michael Allison?)  
What arrangements  
for detectives?  
What time does  
PM arrive and  
wear?  
Is there a seating  
plan?

Robin Butler

FRB

You expressed an interest in the

in the arrangements for the VE  
Day Service on 8 May (particularly  
in view of the St Pauls / Fulklands  
renewed escapade).

MOB have no plans to  
celebrate anything in addition  
to the music (at the flag) which  
was seen by the PM. He agreed  
the arrangements proposed.

Met 30/4

B. R.

*CR*  
*Caroline*

MR BUTLER

VE DAY

I expect none, except a service  
at 1100. Keep free 1030 to lunchtime

*FRB*

Do you yet know what the Prime Minister's commitments are  
going to be for this day other than the Service at Westminster  
Abbey. I have got various requests, one or two from MPs,  
which should now be dealt with.

22.2:

*CR*

20 February, 1985

[CR to discuss with Tessa - Ken Hargreaves' invitation  
to tea at H/C].