

STORING MESSAGE STORE FULLX
22221 DOEMAR G

Chela Powell.

*You may be
interested to see.
MBA 30/4*

TO: MR GRIFFIN
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
LG5 DIVISION
ROOM PI/177
2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P

FROM: PETER BRAYSHAW
DG/ADG/PR/SC
ROOM 209
GLC, COUNTY HALL
LONDON SE1 7PB

APRIL 26TH

SUBJECT SECRETARY OF STATES CONSENTS SS/735

FURTHER TO MY CONVERSATION WITH MR WOODWARD OF YOUR DEPT.
I GIVE BELOW AN OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSED CELEBRATIONS FOR
V.E. DAY.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO INVOLVE AS MANY OF
THE ALLIED COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE, TO ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP THE
SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH HAS, FOR EXAMPLE, LED NORWAY TO
PRESENT LONDONERS EACH YEAR WITH A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR TRAFALGAR
SQUARE.

AN ORCHESTRA FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS BOOKED TO
PERFORM IN THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL IN THE EVENING OF MAY 8TH,
AND APPROACHES WILL BE MADE TO INVOLVE THEM IN THE CELEBRATIONS.

IT IS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE CONTRIBUTION MADE TO THE WAR
EFFORT BY THE SOVIET UNION BE RECOGNISED, AND THE INTENTION IS TO
INVITE AN ENSEMBLE FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO TAKE PART IN THE
EVENTS. SINCE TIME IS SO SHORT, IT MUST BE STRESSED THAT SUCH AN
INVITATION, ALTHOUGH ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE, MAY NOT BE TRANSLATED
INTO A DEFINITE COMMITMENT, SHOULD THE COUNCIL AGREE TO ACCEPT
THESE PROPOSALS.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE CHAIRMANS OFFICE WILL BE ABLE TO INVITE
BOTH THE AMERICAN AND SOVIET ARTISTS AND REPRESENTATIVES AN
OPPORTUNITY TO GET TOGETHER WITH VISITORS FROM OTHER ALLIED
COUNTRIES.

POPULAR INVOLVEMENT

TO CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF THE ORIGINAL VE DAY CELEBRATIONS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO INVOLVE AS MANY OF THE ORDINARY PEOPLE OF LONDON AS POSSIBLE. OVER THE YEARS, IT HAS BEEN PROVED THAT AMONG THE MOST POPULAR EVENTS, AND THOSE WHICH INVOLVE THE WIDEST RANGE OF AGE AND SOCIAL GROUPS, ARE FIREWORKS DISPLAYS SUCH AS THOSE ORGANISED FOR THAMESDAY AND SOUTH BANK SPLASH.

IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT A LARGE SCALE FIREWORKS DISPLAY, IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF CELEBRATION IN 1945, BE ORGANISED ON THE RIVER.

IN ADDITION, IT IS PROPOSED THAT STREET PARTIES, LIKE THOSE WHICH CELEBRATED THE END OF THE WAR ALL OVER LONDON, BE ORGANISED. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT RESOURCES BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO ORGANISE PARTIES TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY. RESOURCES WOULD INCLUDE INFORMATION SHEETS, FINANCIAL HELP WITH PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING, THE PROVISION OF STREET ENTERTAINERS, AND HELP WITH LIASON WITH LOCAL POLICE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

IN EARLY EVENING, IT IS PROPOSED TO PROVIDE STREET ENTERTAINERS, BANDS ETC. ALONG THE SOUTH BANK TERRACES, WITH FOOD DRINK ON SALE, AND STALLS AVAILABLE TO PEACE GROUPS ETC., LEADING UP TO THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY DESCRIBED.

FOLLOWING THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY, IT IS PROPOSED THAT DANCING TO FORTIES DANCE BAND MUSIC BE ORGANISED IN JUBILEE GARDENS.

ONE NOTABLE FEATURE OF THE BRITISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR EFFORT WAS THE WAY IN WHICH WOMEN BECAME INVOLVED, AND HIGHLY

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WHICH HAD BEEN REGARDED AS THE PROVINCE OF MEN: FIRE FIGHTING, FACTORIES, MUNITIONS WORK, AGRICULTURE ALL BECAME RELIANT ON THE WORK OF WOMEN.

THE WOMEN'S THEATRE GROUP WILL BE ASKED TO PRESENT TWO P PERFORMANCES OF THE PRODUCTION ANYWHERE TO ANYWHERE, WHICH DEALS WITH THE EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN IN LONDON DURING THE WAR, AND THE CHANGES IN THEIR LIVES WHEN THE WAR ENDED.

PETER BRAYSHAW

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29 APR 1985

Telephone
01-212 3434

DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
2 MARSHAM STREET
SW1P 3EB



*with
CP 2004*

*With the Compliments of
the Private Secretary to
the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Sir George Young*