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MJASZ



cc Detectives
Press Office
Harley Booth

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 July 1985

Dev High

Many thanks for your letter of 17 June. The Prime Minister has confirmed that she would like to set up a visit to see New Scotland Yard's work in the drugs field. We are hoping to arrange this for the afternoon of Friday 9 August, with the visit starting at about 1430 and lasting an hour and an half. We are also, incidentally, hoping to arrange for the Prime Minister to visit HM Customs at Heathrow to see their work on drugs, in the morning.

BF // I should be grateful if you would confirm that this date and time would be convenient from New Scotland Yard's point of view. We should also, in due course, be grateful for a draft programme for the visit. At that stage, we can take the Prime Minister's mind on the question of Home Office representatives. We shall aim, as always, to keep the Prime Minister's programme to as small a number of people as possible until immediately before the event.

Perhaps you would let me know if we should continue to deal through you in taking forward the detailed arrangements for the visit, or whether it would be better for us to liaise directly with New Scotland Yard. Either way, our Press Office and Detectives will need to be in touch shortly.

I am copying this letter to Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury).

Zer
Mark Addison

Mark Addison

Hugh Taylor Esq

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SKW

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MR BOOTH

You will see from the attached letters that, now the Prime Minister has confirmed she would be content to visit Heathrow and New Scotland Yard on 9 August, I am taking forward the necessary arrangements through the Home Office and HM Customs.

To ensure we keep lines clear, I think it would be helpful if, as far as possible, the point of contact with Customs and Scotland Yard for the purposes of these visits were this office.

MEA

Mark Addison

SA/85

VISIT TO CUSTOMS AND EXCISE: DRUGS

You said you would like to see the work of HM Customs on drugs.

Customs have advised that Heathrow is far and away the best place to see the range of their work in this field within a shortish space of time. Hartley Booth has conducted an early reconnaissance visit, and thinks that you should have a most interesting visit, and that it will bring great encouragement to the Customs services. The best time to see the operation is early in the morning, and a 9 o'clock start would be ideal. About one and a half hours should be long enough to see a sufficient range of work of the Customs in this area.

We have ear-marked a slot in the diary on ^{Friday} 9 August. So far this is still a light week. You are aiming to depart for your holiday on the following Monday. It is, of course, into the holiday season, but the key Customs people will be available on that date. You would need to leave No. 10 at about 8.00 am and could expect to be back here at about 11.30 am.

The police would also welcome the chance to arrange a visit to show you some of the work they do in this field. New Scotland Yard have offered to put on a presentation about their intelligence and investigative work in the UK, and their links with Customs' activities. They believe they could convey a good national picture to you in that way. If you wished, we could arrange this visit for the afternoon of the same day as your visit to Heathrow. I think we should set aside another one and a half hours, although there would be minimum travelling time.

Content that we should proceed with setting up the arrangements for a visit to Heathrow in the morning of 9 August?

Content also that we should arrange for a visit to New Scotland Yard that afternoon for a presentation of police work on enforcement?

Mark Addison

MARK ADDISON
24 June 1985

*Not that date. I
want to spend 2 or 3 days
at Solihull - not*

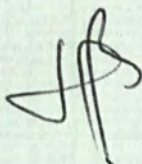
MR ADDISON

3 July 1985

cc Miss Wall

On 2 July I visited the Assistant Commissioner, John Dellow at Scotland Yard. He is keen that the proposed visit of the Prime Minister does go ahead as soon as possible and convenient. He would like to make the point that there is a disturbing link between drugs and other major crime, in particular, counterfeiting and robbery. He believes that money supply figures may be distorted because of a massive new wave in counterfeit notes, particularly £50 and £20 notes!

The trip could be achieved in about 1 hour, possibly 1½ hours. It will mostly consist of discussions with senior police officers and an exhibition. The Prime Minister could either go at 12 noon, after returning from Heathrow, and stay with senior officers for lunch or commence after lunch.



HARTLEY BOOTH

Cardhu.^{CR.}

9/8
MEA has put
note in 5 P.M.
CR.

When could we find a slot
of 1 1/2 hours, 9-10.30, on a
Friday morning for Henderson
Drugs visit?

We shall also be looking for a
less and a half one day to
visit New Scotland Yard to
have a look at the drugs work.
Would you identify a possible
slot for that too pl?

MEA 24/6

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HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

17 June 1985



CF.
Drgs file pl.
MEA 17/6

Dear Mark,

As you know we received copies of your exchange of correspondence with Rachel Lomax at Treasury about the Prime Minister's wish to see the work of HM Customs on drugs and you have since been in touch seeking advice on a similar visit to the police.

The police would clearly welcome the opportunity of arranging such a visit for the Prime Minister. From our initial discussions with them, we feel that it is not however realistic for both visits to be fitted in on the same morning. We should therefore suggest that the Prime Minister may care to follow up her visit to Heathrow, where the emphasis will clearly be on preventing illegal importation, by, say, a morning visit to New Scotland Yard, where the police would propose to put on a presentation about their intelligence and investigative work in the United Kingdom and their links with Customs' activity. Although the Prime Minister's visit would not go outside New Scotland Yard, the police would ensure that the full national picture was presented to her (you may be aware that the Central Drugs Intelligence Unit (CDIU) which serves the whole of the United Kingdom has its offices at New Scotland Yard). Senior officers of the Metropolitan Police, together with the heads of the Metropolitan Police Central Drug Squad and CDIU would be present for the visit but we could additionally arrange for Home Office representation if the Prime Minister wished.

Many of the same sensitivities about press coverage apply to this as to the Customs' visit but we could make appropriate handling arrangements once details have been worked out.

I am copying this letter to Rachel Lomax.

Yours sincerely
Hugh Taylor

H H TAYLOR

Mark Addison, Esq

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