

*CP*  
MRS. RYDER

The Egyptian Ambassador is very keen to invite the Prime Minister to dinner before she goes to Egypt on 16 September. I told him that I thought this would be very difficult indeed since the Prime Minister was heavily engaged in the first half of September and was likely to be out of London for most of it.

I think it probably is impossible. But in the unlikely event that it could be squeezed in, there is something to be said for it. It gets a visit off to a good start if the Prime Minister has dined at the Embassy of the host country shortly before (and we would probably have to find a way of including the Jordanians in the same occasion). Since the whole purpose of the visit is to Be Nice To Jordan and Egypt, if attendance at a dinner can be arranged without excessive cost to the Prime Minister's time and energy, it would be worthwhile. Could you see if it would be possible in some way or another?

*CP*

C.D. Powell  
17 July 1985