

*file*DIARY MEETING: OUTSTANDING REQUESTS AND INVITATIONS1. Christmas: Mr Paul Getty

You asked, when you wrote to Mr. Getty recently, whether he would like to come and see you at Chequers over the Christmas Recess, and that you would be in touch.

Notes and recommendations:

Suggest tea on Sat. 4 Jan. You have Mr Donaldson the portrait painter in the morning. Agree?

2. 14 January: Tea for Ian Botham

Harry Greenway has asked if you would look in at a tea he is arranging to celebrate the funds Ian Botham has raised for leukaemia victims on his walk from north to south. Mr. Greenway has asked if you would look in and perhaps hand over the cheque.

Notes and Recommendations

Ian Botham was of course unable to come to your General Reception along with the rest of his team, because he was in the middle of his walk. Assuming the tea is to be held at the House of Commons you might wish to look in for a quarter of an hour after Questions. Agree?

3. Friday 7 February: Reception for the City Remembrancer, Anthony Howlett, to mark his retirement (1800-1830)

Mr. Howlett has been responsible for all City ceremonial occasions since February 1980. The Lord Mayor and one or two Ambassadors will be there. ^{But} there is no need for you to go.

Regrets?

4. March: Alton Towers

You will remember that John Broome invited you to open the Grand Canyon Rapids Ride at Alton Towers in the week beginning Monday 24 March.

Notes and recommendations

We had hoped to fit in a visit to Alton Towers (though not the opening) with an appropriate Regional Tour. The difficulty is that Alton Towers itself is awkwardly out of reach both of the West Midlands, and of Manchester. These two will in any case be too late in the year.

You are bearing in mind another invitation from John Broome to inaugurate work on the Battersea development when he has cleared the planning hurdles. This would be easier to arrange than Alton Towers, but of course, the inauguration may be some way off, if it takes place at all.

You wanted to have another look at John Broome's invitation to Alton Towers. We shall need to discuss.

5. Early Spring 1986: Businesswoman of the Year Award

The Institute of Directors have asked you to present their annual award to the most successful British businesswoman.

Notes and recommendations

You said no last year on grounds of general diary pressure. The dates they have in mind are not much use to us, but they would be willing to be flexible. None the less, accepting the invitation would involve you in a speech and I doubt that it warrants your involvement.

Regrets?

6. June 1986: Opening the Cody Business Centre, East London

John Heddle MP has passed on this invitation. The Cody Business Centre is the brain-child of the London Docklands Development Corporation which is on land just outside the Enterprise Zone. The new business park aims to provide sites of particular interest to industry and warehouse users.

Notes and recommendations

You do not need to undertake any more engagements of this kind in London next year. Regrets.

7. Saturday, 5 July 1986: Invitation from BOC (Richard Giordano) to a gala evening at Blenheim Palace to celebrate their centenary.

The evening will involve a concert and a brief tattoo. There will be 100 or so of the BOC's senior managers. You would no doubt need to say a few words.

Notes and Recommendations

You have a Regional Tour, including Grantham and Notts, the previous day. There is no need for you to accept the BOC invitation unless you particularly wanted to.

Regrets?

8. September 1986: Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce

The Edinburgh Chamber have renewed their invitation to you to play some part in their bicentenary celebrations next year.

Notes and recommendations:

There is no easy way of working this into an existing tour. You may go to the Commonwealth Games, on 2 August,

but that is a Saturday and you may not wish to extend your stay.

I expect the Scottish Office will recommend acceptance, but I wonder if the cleaner option would not now be to reply saying that there really seems very little chance that you will be able to join them for their celebrations, and you do not want them to hold out a false hope. Agree?

9. 15 November 1986: Prom Praise at the Concert Hall, Wembley

All Souls, Langham Place, have once again invited you to Prom Praise, which takes place in November next year. You were minded to say yes.

Notes and recommendations

The concert comes very soon after the Lord Mayor's Banquet, and is on a Saturday, which would eat into one of your first free weekends for some time. Are you sure you would like to go?

10. 26 November: Energy Efficiency Conference, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham

The Energy Secretary has asked if you would open or address this Conference. It will mark the peak of their publicity campaign for Energy Efficiency Year. The Conference is pleased to be double its size of this year's.

Notes and Recommendations

Even if this were in London, I doubt if it is something which warrants your involvement. Acceptance would involve a separate visit to Birmingham, and you will have been on a West Midlands Regional Tour on the previous

Friday. The Conference date cannot however be fitted in with that. Regrets?

11. End 1986/Early 1987: Design Seminar

I have been in touch with the Department of Trade and Industry. Their Secretary of State has now asked if you would hold a second Design Seminar at No. 10 towards the end of 1986 or the beginning of 1987. This would give a chance to take stock of the progress which has been made since the 1982 Seminar, and to plot the next steps. The Secretary of State would like to announce your intention to hold a second Seminar at a Conference for Industrialists in January.

Notes and recommendations:

Next year would be a good opportunity to have a second Design Seminar. It is Industry Year, and it will be four years since your first.

We shall need to look for a date in the diary. January 1987 might be best.

12. XIII Commonwealth Games, Scotland

(i) Mr Younger suggests you visit the Games' headquarters in Edinburgh when you are next in Scotland.

(ii) Mr. Younger also asks if you would give a reception for the Commonwealth Games Federation between January and April next year (Jan-Feb preferred).

(iii) The Chairman of the Commonwealth Games Federation has now invited you to the Games themselves, and recommends the closing day, 2 August.

Notes and recommendations

The Scottish Office are reasonably optimistic that the Games will be held successfully and that private funding will in the end be available in sufficient quantity. I am however doubtful that (i) above would be a sensible use of your time (though you could conceivably visit the HQ on Friday 16 May when you are in Scotland for the Scottish Conference). On (ii) and (iii) above we shall need to look at the diary and discuss.

13. Board of Deputies of British Jews

The President of the Board of Deputies has invited you to attend a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Public Order Act. The date is not yet fixed, nor the nature of the engagement, but the location would be London.

Notes and recommendations:

You give quite a lot of time to the Board of Deputies, and I doubt whether you need to take on a commitment of this kind if it promises to be very time-consuming. You might like to suggest that they aim for a date for a reception which would give you a good chance of looking in at some stage. Agree?

14. Buckingham Coatings Ltd

Opening a new paint factory.

Notes and recommendations

Sir Peter Hordern wrote in support of this invitation. You explained in reply to Sir Peter that you would bear the invitation in mind for a future visit, but that there was no immediate prospect of your being able to take it on.

We shall make certain in future that we don't decline

invitations of this kind on the basis that you will not be in the area. But I do not think there will be any reason to re-open the idea of going to Buckingham Coatings unless you particularly wanted to do so.

15. St. Stephen's Club Portrait Commission

Lord Kaberry has written to Michael explaining that some time ago you said you would be prepared to sit for a painting to be commissioned by the Club. They have identified June Mendoza or Emma Sargeant as possible painters. Lord Kaberry thinks the Club would prefer June Mendoza.

Notes and recommendations:

You seem to be devoting a good deal of time already to portrait painters and have already sat for June Mendoza. And neither of the two identified by the Club seem particularly suitable. You may wish to say you would be happy to sit in principle, but that your diary at present is hopeless, and that you would like in any case to think further about the painter.

Caroline is anxious that you accept no more sittings for the time being as they are so time consuming. Agree?

16. Tel Aviv University: Presentation of Doctorate

You agreed to accept an honorary doctorate from Tel Aviv University. We envisaged that this would take place informally here at No. 10, and involve only a few minutes of your time. Sir Leslie Porter has proposed that a Guildhall ceremony be set up for the presentation, which would last an hour or so.

Notes and Recommendations

This is not on. Regrets, but say you would be very

happy if a small group - say half a dozen - were to come along to No. 10 for a half-hour presentation. Agree?

Media

17. New Year: Lunch with The Times

Charles Wilson has asked, following your recent meeting with him, if you would accept an invitation to an informal lunch at The Times Board Room some time in the New Year. He would try and ensure that Rupert Murdoch was present.

Notes and recommendations:

Your lunches are already heavily committed early next year. If you go to The Times, the pressure from others will no doubt follow. And you did go to their bicentenary celebration earlier this year. On the other hand, The Times is a rather special case, and they have a new editor. We shall need to discuss.

18. Lunch with the BBC/Lunch with Channel 4

Alastair Milne has asked you to lunch at Broadcasting House in the New Year with some of his senior management colleagues. Channel 4 have also invited you to lunch with them.

Notes and recommendations:

Your lunches for early next year are already heavily committed. But if you wished to take on one or the other Channel 4 might offer a more cost effective use of your time. We shall need to discuss.

19. Kentish Times: Request for an Interview

The Kentish Times has a weekly readership of a quarter of

a million. They would invite questions from their readers in advance, which they would put to you in a half-hour interview.

Notes and Recommendations

This might offer a chance to get across a Channel Tunnel message in an area where people are likely to be worried about it. You also have links with Dartford and Beckenham. But I doubt that all this would justify the time needed for an interview. Instead, you could clear a prepared Q & A note for them, on the basis of their advance questions. Agree?

20. Groundwork Adventure Project

The Rev Brian Walshe has asked if you would give a reception for the project at No. 10 to help them raise funds.

Notes and recommendations:

You do not generally give receptions for this kind of thing unless you have some close personal connection with the project concerned (eg you recently turned down a similar request from Help the Aged). But you are, in this case, a Patron and will want to help. Derek Howe hopes you will be able to. Your programme of receptions next year is however a full one already, and I think you will wish to consider some other way of helping the Project. Perhaps invite some of the youngsters in, so that the photographs etc can be used to help raise funds, with an appropriate message (as you did for the Scouts/Spastics)? Or presenting something to be auctioned at their Ball in May (which you can't attend because it clashes with the CBI dinner)? Do you have a preference?

You have not yet written to Sir Ronald Gardner-Thorpe, because we have been finding out whether he has in fact contributed to the Groundwork Adventure Project. Derek Howe says he hasn't. Would you also like us to draft a reminder to him for you to sign?

21. 1986: Chatham House: Invitation to speak

Admiral Sir James Eberle, Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, has asked if you would address either to a General Meeting or to a small group of top businessmen, under Chatham House rule. He has suggested East-West relations as a theme.

Notes and recommendations

We shall need to consider this in the light of the other speeches already in next year's diary.

Mark Addison

6 December 1985