

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO WASHINGTON

You earlier agreed that it might be useful to pay a brief visit to Washington this autumn for a talk with the President, depending on progress towards a US/Soviet Summit. We have pencilled in dates of 13-15 November (after the Lord Mayor's Banquet and the Debate on the Address). I have ascertained that the President's diary is at present free on 14/15 November and told the White House that you might want to pay a visit.

We are getting to the point where we ought to firm up some arrangements. The prospects for a Summit by the end of the year are still uncertain. But it is surely important for you to go whether or not there is to be a Summit. Either way, people will expect you to be putting our views to the President - perhaps even more so if progress to a Summit is stalled. It will be an important part of the build-up to your visit to the Soviet Union in the spring. And there will be other issues to discuss: the Middle East, South Africa and some secret matters. It is not irrelevant that Chancellor Kohl will be going in late October.

Probably your most productive and successful visit was that to Camp David in December 1984, with talks attended by a very small circle indeed. There is a lot to be said for repeating that pattern. With so much else on this autumn, you will not, in any event, want to make a 'full-scale' visit where you have to make a speech and so on.

My suggestion is therefore that we should now propose to the Americans a brief visit to hold talks with the President at Camp David on Saturday 15 November. The sort of programme I have in mind would be to fly to Washington at lunch-time on Friday 14 November, see one or two people in Washington that afternoon, get a good night's sleep, helicopter up to Camp

David early on Saturday 15 November for talks and lunch with the President, give a press conference at Andrews AFB and fly back to London overnight Saturday/Sunday, giving you Sunday to recover. We would make clear to the Americans that you would be going virtually alone, with just the Ambassador (Antony Acland) and a note-taker; and urge them to restrict participation on their side too. The Foreign Secretary has been in the United States twice this autumn already (and was there in July): he would have no strong grounds to press to come this time.

Agree to proceed in this way?

We need to have
good reason to go. I am
not yet sure that we have.
Otherwise it will be depicted
as unnecessary expense
on an emergency. May we
have a word
mb

CDP

CHARLES POWELL

CONFIDENTIAL

CCP
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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 October 1986

Prime Minister
MB CDP 15/10

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Visit to Washington

We hear from our Embassy that post-Reykjavik contacts with the NSC suggest that we are now close to agreement on the lines we earlier proposed to the Americans. It is clear that the President looks forward to the occasion, and that the White House/NSC expect it to happen on 14 or 15 November. It also seems virtually certain that they will go for 15 November, your preferred date. It is less certain that we will get Camp David, ^{but} the odds on that are apparently improving.

We are pressing for clear answers soon, and have been promised one before the end of this week.

The Embassy believe it will be important to clear in advance with the White House the wording and timing of the public announcement of the visit.

Yours ever,

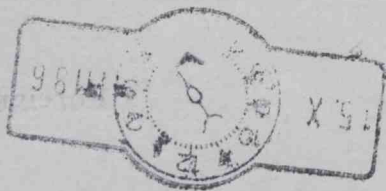
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
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CONFIDENTIAL

PM TOURS ABROAD: Washington: July 86





file NAF
No. cc Sir PC

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29 September 1986

From the Private Secretary

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

As you know, the Prime Minister has it in mind to pay a brief visit to Washington in November to talk to the President (my letter of 3 July to Colin Budd refers). The main purpose would be to discuss a US/Soviet summit, but she would intend to cover a number of other current issues including the Middle East and South Africa. The Prime Minister's preferred dates are 14/15 November, indeed any others before the end of the year would be virtually impossible. What she would like to do would be to travel out to Washington in the afternoon of 14 November, possibly see one or two people in Washington that evening, with talks with the President at Camp David on Saturday 15 November. She would return to London overnight Saturday/Sunday. The Prime Minister would not want to take a delegation, only a minimum of Private Office and security staff. In effect she would like to repeat the sort of discussion which she had with the President in December 1984: a tete-a-tete with him, followed by a very restricted session of talks for which she would be accompanied only by the Ambassador and a Private Secretary (it is of course up to the Americans whom to have on their side).

Bf. || I should be grateful if you could now ask Sir Antony Acland to explore with the White House, in strict confidence, the possibility of a programme on 14/15 November, on the lines suggested above.

Charles Powell

A.C. Galsworthy, Esq., CMG.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.