



Agree to a brief meeting  
after Cabinet to discuss whether  
President Reagan should address  
both Houses of Parliament?

PRIME MINISTER

Yes ms.

A.F.C. 10/2

## PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT

1. Your Private Secretary will have received today a letter from us recommending that you send a message to President Reagan welcoming his acceptance of The Queen's invitation to visit Britain in June. We shall also be in touch with your office about the press announcement and sundry points on the arrangements for the President's programme.

2. There is however a particular point on which I would welcome a word with you at an early stage. As you know the Americans have latched on to the idea that the President might address both Houses of Parliament. This was one of various possible occasions for a public appearance and speech which we have mentioned to them. It looks as though the only time at which he could do this would be the morning of 8 June since on present plans he will arrive on the previous evening and leave the following day, possibly before lunch.

3. On the assumption that Parliament will resume after the Whitsun recess on 7 June I think it would be an excellent idea for the President to deliver the address; the Americans seem very keen. But we could not do it if the recess were for any reason to be prolonged and there could possibly be some difficulties from the Opposition. It would of course be for Francis Pym and Janet Young to look into whether the idea is practicable. I am copying this minute to them and suggest that if you have a moment we might all (with Peter Carrington) discuss it after Cabinet on Thursday.

4. If for any reason an address to Parliament is not possible we should have to tell the Americans soon and we should need to look for an alternative occasion for a major speech eg a Lord Mayor's Luncheon (the evening of the 8th will be taken up by the State Banquet) or a special session in front of an invited audience in the Banqueting House.

H.A.

9 February 1982