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SUBJECT.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 February 1982

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Visit of President Reagan

After Cabinet this morning there was a brief meeting to discuss the Lord Privy Seal's minute of 9 February to the Prime Minister about the question of President Reagan addressing Parliament. The Prime Minister was in the chair and the meeting was attended by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chief Whip, the Lord President of the Council, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Lord Privy Seal and Sir Robert Armstrong.

It was agreed that arrangements should be made for President Reagan to make an address to both Houses of Parliament. The event should take place in Westminster Hall. It would be important that the Hall should be full and that as much as possible should be done by way of ceremonial and other arrangements to give the event maximum impact.

It was noted that there might be implications for the Whitsun Parliamentary Recess. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster said that it was likely that the House of Lords would be sitting in any case on 8 June, the likely day of the address. The implications for the House of Commons would be examined further.

Finally, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that it was essential that President Reagan's programme provided a proper opportunity for talks between the President and the Prime Minister. If the visit appeared to be entirely ceremonial and recreational there could well be criticism.

I am sending copies of this letter to Michael Arthur (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Jim Buckley (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office), David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

JOHN COLES

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