

file 17



Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01- 233-4173

R M Russell Esq CMG  
WASHINGTON

Your reference

Our reference

Date 15 July 1977



Dear Mark,

MRS THATCHER'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES (12)

1. Thank you for your letter of 6 July on this subject. I am also grateful to Roy Fox for his two telegrams 57 and 58. You will by now have seen our latest telegram on this subject which was designed mainly for the benefit of Gordon Booth and Roy Fox. (10) (11)
2. I had another session with Adam Butler on 14 July and, as a result of my plea that we should be given as much detail as possible, now attach the programme for Mrs Thatcher's visit as it stands at present. I was not totally successful in securing all the details you and we require, mostly because Butler is quite determined to retain personal control over all the publicity arrangements for the visit. Frankly I did not really try to quarrel with him on this since, if there is to be any controversial aspect to Mrs Thatcher's visit, it seems likely to be over speeches, interviews and other publicity arrangements. It may be no bad thing that Butler rather than Dick Fyjis-Walker or BIS New York are seen to be making these arrangements.
3. Turning now to the programme and your comments, you will see that Mrs Thatcher plans to reach New York a day earlier, arriving by the British Airways flight on Tuesday, 6 September. She will be staying at the Morgan Guaranty flat and she is having lunch with them on 7 September. Mr Jay did offer to meet Mrs Thatcher in New York but Mrs Thatcher, while extremely grateful for the warmth of this gesture, does not think that the Ambassador should make a journey to New York for this purpose. I said I was sure that the Ambassador would wish the Consul-General to represent him at the airport and Adam Butler said that he would be most grateful if there were any chance that Gordon Booth could lay on transport to get them to the flat. (City Bank will provide transport to get them to the airport on 9 September.)
4. As for the rest of the programme in New York, Butler said that the whole of Friday, 9 September, until the party left for Houston would be occupied with TV arrangements or the meetings outlined in the attached programme. Mrs Thatcher would like to call on Dr Waldheim, Ambassador Young and Mr Richard and there seemed to be plenty of time on 7 September or the morning of 8 September.



Apparently Mrs Thatcher called on Mayor Beame on her last visit in 1975 but would do so again if Gordon Booth thought this courtesy would be appreciated. Could we have his advice on this please? She would be grateful if the appointments for these calls could be established since she is also hoping to attend editorial conferences of the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and Time magazine. Butler will make these arrangements himself when he sees how much free time Mrs Thatcher has after Booth has made the necessary arrangements.

5. After covering most of the Houston points in my latest telegram, Butler has now asked some more questions. Could Fox supply transport to bring the party from the airport on 9 September and to the airport on 11 September? Answer may well be "no" but perhaps ESU could help out? And could NASA supply cars to and from the Space Centre? When I pressed Butler on the oil men they might be seeing, it emerged that the only arrangements they had made so far were lunch at 1 pm on 10 September with the President of the Texas Commerce Bank and possibly a visit to an oil rig. If this latter visit takes place, it will have to be on Saturday afternoon and may squeeze out the reception I have foisted on Roy. We will know more about meetings soon and so I suggest we hold back on the reception.

6. Mrs Thatcher now proposes to reach Washington sometime in the afternoon of Sunday, 11 September. Her programme so far only has one firm commitment, to address the Washington Institute for Foreign Affairs at the Cosmos Club at lunchtime on 12 September. Since it was quickly apparent that Butler was fully committed to this speaking engagement, I did not in the event seek to dissuade him as suggested in your paragraph 4. I fully take your point and had hinted at it at my first meeting with Butler. I do not think it matters too much and it may be no bad thing that the Foreign Affairs Institute gets a distinguished British speaker since they have failed to get one for some time.

7. Butler asked us to try to avoid making any appointments in the morning of Wednesday, 14 September, when he hopes Mrs Thatcher will make an appearance on television. Both Monday, 12 September and Tuesday, 13 September are however completely free for appointments and I hope that you could now start seeking specific times for calls on President Carter, Messrs Vance, Lance, Kissinger, Brown, Brzesinski, Schlesinger, Burns, Blumenthal, Meany, Rose (IMF) and Senator Moynihan (this list supplants that in paragraph 7 of my earlier letter). We also have the projected calls on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Committee on International Relations. Butler said that he would be hoping to make some other arrangements for visits mostly on the press side to fill the gaps which will emerge after you have completed the programme.

8. Apparently the firm dinner parties for 12 and 13 September have disappeared and we have now agreed that the Ambassador should give some entertainment for Mrs Thatcher on the evening of Monday, 12 September. At Mr Jay's request I asked Mrs Thatcher what kind of entertainment she would most like. The answer came back that she very much enjoys smallish dinner parties where she can talk to all the guests but would quite understand if Mr Jay wished to give a



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large reception. I will try to catch the Ambassador on this before he leaves London but may well miss him. Perhaps you would therefore consult him on his arrival.

9. Finally Butler said that he was planning to precede the main party by flying to Washington on Sunday, 4 September. He hoped to see Dick Fyjis-Walker during the morning of 5 September and asked whether it would be possible for you to book him in for the one night of 4 September at a decent down town hotel. He mentioned the Hay Adam. He will take the shuttle to New York in the late afternoon of 5 September where he will be making his own accommodation arrangements. He will probably telephone Lawrence O'Keefe on Tuesday morning, 6 September.

Yours wr,

Ramsay

Ramsay Melhuish  
North America Department

cc:

G Booth Esq  
New York

R Fox Esq  
Houston

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14 July

Draft 4

MRS THATCHER'S PROPOSED ITINERARY TO UNITED STATES

Tuesday 6 September

13.00

15.35

Depart Heathrow Flight BA 509  
Arrive JFK

NEW YORK CITY

Stay: Morgan Guaranty flat

Wednesday 7 September

Morning

Lunch

Afternoon

Evening

Courtesy Calls  
Morgan Guaranty  
Courtesy Calls  
KEEP FREE

Thursday 8 September

Morning

Lunch (2½ hours)

5.00 p.m.

6.30

Dinner

SPEECH

Courtesy Calls  
Time Magazine  
FREE for speech forum  
Reception given by Consul General  
NBC

Friday 9 September

9.00

Record 'Issues & Answers' ABC  
7 West 66th Street

11.30

14.35

17.00

Meeting with Citibank followed by lunch  
Depart La Guardia Flight EA 53  
Arrive Houston

COURTESY CALLS

Public

Uhdalheim, Young, Ivor Richard,  
Editors New York Times  
Wall Street Journal

Private

Bill Simon

HOUSTON

Stay: Hotel

Friday 9 September

17.00

Early Evening

Evening

SPEECH

Arrive Houston

Keep Free for speech & Hairdresser

Dinner - ESU

Saturday 10 September

Morning

Lunch

Afternoon

Evening (Early)

Dinner

Space Centre

President of Texas Commerce Bank

Oil Rigs

Reception given by Consul General

Mrs Hobby - Proprietor of Houston Post

Sunday 11 September

?

Evening

Fly to Washington

CBS Interview

Dinner with Peter Jay

Monday 12 September

Lunch

SPEECH

Dinner

Washington Institute for Foreign Affairs

Cosmos Club

Peter Jay

Tuesday 13 September

Courtesy Calls

Wednesday 14 September

Early a.m.

Lunch

21.00

'Today' programme

NBC

Washington Post Editors

Depart Washington International

Flight BA 520

Thursday 15 September

9.00 a.m.

Arrive Heathrow



COURTESY CALLS IN WASHINGTON

Public

The President, Vance, Birt Lance, Kissinger, Brown (Defence) Moynihan, Meany, Bryzinsky, Schlesinger, Arthur Burns, Blumenthal. Rose (IIF)

Private

Professor Alan Walters  
(Should be seen at beginning of trip)

NB

Time must be built in for briefing with British Press and individual British Press interviews.