

MR INGHAM

MR COLES

PRIME MINISTER

*It would help you in not going to
Canterbury to build up the meeting
at Cardinal Home, novel as something more
substantial than a mere courtesy chat*

*I will have word
with Lord Carrington.*

mb.

The Pope's Visit

A letter is attached setting out the Foreign Secretary's recommendations about the involvement of Ministers at various moments during the Pope's visit. The Pope arrives at Gatwick on the morning of Friday 28 May, and leaves from Cardiff on the afternoon of Wednesday 2 June.

It has been finally agreed that the Pope will call on The Queen on the afternoon of Friday 28 May.

We also have outstanding the Archbishop of Canterbury's informal enquiry whether the Prime Minister would like an invitation to the Canterbury Cathedral service on Saturday 29 May.

Lord Carrington believes his recommendations strike the right balance between too much and too little Government involvement in the visit.

The recommendations are:-

The Pope should be met at Gatwick by Lord Carrington. Certainly, it seems right that there should be a senior Minister there. The choice lies between Lord Carrington and the Lord Chancellor who was, I know, ready to do this if you wanted him. Lord Carrington suggests that he would be the most "usual" senior Minister to do this.

/Agree

This is a copy. The original has been extracted and closed, 40 years.

Agree Lord Carrington?

Departure from Cardiff

Agree Secretary of State for Wales?

Scotland

Agree Secretary of State for Scotland both on the Pope's arrival and his departure?

Your meeting with the Pope

This is all arranged, during the reception at Cardinal Hume's house in the evening of Saturday 29 May. (The hierarchy have been informed: Mr du Boulay to Monsignor Brown 8 December 1981, but it might be no bad thing to write again from here as the organisation of this visit has been pretty chaotic.)

Canterbury

*Passage deleted and closed, 40 years, under
FOI Exemptions.*

Wayland

18 October 2011

Lambeth Palace tell me that Mr Foot and Mr Healey will be at Canterbury, as will Mrs Shirley Williams. They do not yet know about Mr Steel. Among senior Cabinet Ministers, the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary plan to go. Lord Carrington has not decided, but may well not go.

The Canterbury service will get enormous publicity. In favour of going is the interest of the occasion, the courtesy to the Pope and

/the Archbishop

the Archbishop, and the "can you afford not to be there?" argument. Against going is the time involved, the fact that you will be seeing the Pope later that day and the risk, once again, of the visit becoming too much like a State visit.

When you considered this earlier you were disposed not to go to Canterbury; and that would remain my advice.

CVP

5 March 1982