

**Magyar Országos Levéltár (MOL) – Hungarian National Archive**

KÜM TŰK 1984, IV. fejt., ANGLIA, 30. doboz

**6-13: 0080/4 M. Thatcher brit miniszterelnök asszony magyarországi látogatása – M. Thatcher British prime minister's visit to Hungary**

Instruction on the cover: "Please file, make photocopies and send them!" signature: 'Ábriné'

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*[Up in the middle of the page handwritten note, first word is illegible then the following words are crossed: 'V. Ter. [illegible] Cr. L. Nagy Cr. Golub']. In the right hand corner: '134/17 [?]' under it: '13/Prot [for Protocol]' Illegible signature under the middle, crossed note, the first word is maybe 'l.' for 'I have seen']*

*[Illegible sign, maybe 'Le' or 'L' [then it means "I have seen"] or – not so probably – a "W" or a lying "E"]*

V. Territorial Department  
Lajos Nagy  
0080/4/1984

**STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL!**  
Prepared: in 7 copies  
Will be received by: Comrade Várkonyi  
Comrade J. Nagy  
Comrade Esztergályos  
Protocol Department  
Press Department  
London  
Department

*[Handwritten note [different than the one above] on the left side: "Cr. Faragó Please, take the organisational-protocol part of this and You [in plural!] should discuss about these. The Ter. D. shall do it by itself, shall discuss questions of content." Signed by "Nagy [most probably Lajos] 1/12"]*

002

Record [note: could be translated as memorandum]

Topic: Margaret Thatcher British prime minister's visit to Hungary

Today for his request I accepted Unwin, British ambassador of Budapest, who visited me in the company of councillor Fortescue concerning the question of programme of Mrs Thatcher's visit to Hungary. During the talks Comrade Lászlóné Ábri [= Mrs László Ábri = Ábriné] was present.

Ambassador Unwin in relations of the prime ministerial discussions strengthened the note [in original Hungarian: signal] reported also by our ambassador of London that Mrs Thatcher first of all wishes to discuss basic questions concerning both international and bilateral questions. He said the following about the questions concerning the visit:

1./ Arrival

The exact time of arrival planned on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February is still unknown. On that day's afternoon Mrs Thatcher has to take part in the "Question Time" programme of the House of Commons, which sets rather late [*in the original Hungarian 'extrudes'*] the time of departure from London. She can arrive to Budapest at 19 o'clock the soonest. And accidental bad weather makes very uncertain the timing of Comrade Lázár's banquet on the evening of arrival. For my request the ambassador promised to try according to opportunities to

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move forward the time of arrival, he will soon give an answer. He agreed that every further programme-idea is influenced by the time of arrival.

### 2./ Entourage

From the English Foreign Office there will be in the entourage of the prime minister Sir Julian Bullard political director and deputy under-secretary and John Birch head of department. No-one is member of the entourage from other ministries. Besides them [*in original Hungarian 'these'*] her private secretary, press secretary, 2 secretaries, 2 detectives and probably her doctor will accompany her.

Probably her husband will not accompany the prime minister, but this is not a final answer, she will come by a VC-10 type plane, which takes the journey app. in 2 hours. It is a big plane, for this reason she can bring with herself a big number of [*e. g. numerous*] press entourage.

### 3. / Accommodation

The prime minister is going to live in the ambassadorial residence with some of her main colleagues, therefore with Bullard, the personal secretary [*in Hungarian distinguished as male*] and [*female*] secretary, the doctor and maybe with Birch. They request to book accommodation for the others. For the press secretary they request to secure a hotel room which is suitable for meeting the press. [*The whole paragraph is marked by a vertical line, next to it is written by Nagy "This is a problem", which is underlined twice.*]

### 4. / Transportation

They request that Mrs. Thatcher could use the ambassadorial car, except if she travels with Comrade Lázár or, if we think that it is necessary, to use an armour-plated car. [*The whole paragraph is marked by a vertical line, next to it is written by Nagy "This is also [a problem]", which is underlined twice.*]

### 5. / Meeting Comrade János Kádár

The ambassador forwarded the request of Mrs Thatcher that she wishes to meet Comrade János Kádár. She also inquired

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whether it is in custom to meet also the head of state, to which received a positive reply.

#### 6. / Other meetings and points of programme

The prime minister – in the framework of some kind of a programme – would be willing to meet Comrades József Marjai, Péter Veress and maybe Mátyás Tímár. She would be also willing to held a presentation of British foreign policy in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in case it fits in the programme. She would held the app. 1-hour-long lecture in English language without interpretation, therefore for those who understand English language. As it was revealed during the talks, Mrs. Thatcher primarily wishes to held a lecture in case at the banquet only short and formal toasts would take place. My statement according to which on these occasions Comrade Lázár's toasts have serious political content, and he is used to speak of more topics of international and bilateral relations, will be mentioned [*in original Hungarian 'signalled'*] by the ambassador to his Foreign Office, and he considers it probable [*original Hungarian 'thinkable'*] that in this case they would desist from the lecture's plan.

In case on the arrival's evening the banquet of Comrade Lázár will be possible, then, on their side they think of a large reception on Friday evening. If on Thursday evening – due to the late arrival – Comrade Lázár's banquet could not take place, then on the English side they wish to give an exclusive [*meaning only for a small number of persons*] lunch on Friday noon, - similarly as they did on the occasion of the British Foreign Secretary's visit. They would invite to this persons of ministerial rank.

#### 8./ Sightseeing

The idea of visiting the market hall, the shopping mall of Skála or Corvin, the Matthias Church, the Fisherman's Bastion, and out of Budapest the visit of Szentendre, Békásmegyér<sup>1</sup> - the school planned based on English example [*was not able to find the reference*] – the Danube Bend and Esztergom was raised in his suggestion made for his Foreign Office. He requests that upon creating the programme – depending on time – we take these into consideration, if possible.

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#### 9. / Press conference

They think of a so-called "full" press conference, to which the representatives of international press would also be invited. Thatcher would willingly give a TV interview for the MTV [*Hungarian television*] also in London.

#### 10. / Questions on security

He inquired whether beyond the use of armour-plated vehicle – in case we judge its use to be necessary – the residence is going to be secured also outside.

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<sup>1</sup> Since 1950 part of III. District of Budapest.

## 11. / Other

The ambassador requests us to secure 20-30 minutes for Mrs Thatcher to meet her colony of the British Embassy.

We gave our reply to the ambassador's questions. On the other hand he promised to announce the exact time of arrival as soon as possible.

I suggest that the Protocol Department shall prepare the programme-plan based on the above.

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### Remark:

Half an hour after he left Unwin called me because he forgot to tell that from London – which caused him surprise – he was informed that Mrs. Thatcher is planning to give presents. Based on this the ambassador enquired whether besides Comrade Lázár Mrs Thatcher should bring present for Comrades Kádár and Losonczi.

In my reply I told them that it depends on them whether they wish to bring a present and if so to whom. For his request I explained the Hungarian practice, according to which upon giving presents the same or lower

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ranked persons are taken into consideration. I added: of course I do not think that one should count on refusal in case Mrs. Thatcher wishes to give presents to our top leaders.

Budapest, 9 January 1984

*[signature of Ábriné]*

*[Note on the document: in the Hungarian National Archive this copy of the document, and copy no. 003 are preserved under the same cover. The text of the documents is fully identical, except for the notes. The notes of copy no. 002 have been described above. The copy no. 003 contains only one note on page 1: "Cr. Faragó can call the English ambassador, I have talked to him. 1/12" The signature is "E", probably it stands for "Cr. Esztergályos" Copy no. 003 is also signed by Ábriné.]*