



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Agree that visit should go ahead?

15 April 1980

Paul - 15/4

France is not a full member of N.A.T.O. Why would we signal honour to this Prince Charles?

Dear Brian,

Visit by Prince Charles to France

In September last year we heard from the Elysee that President Giscard had suggested that the Prince of Wales might visit some French military establishments. Prince Charles has agreed to this proposal and his Office have provisionally reserved 21 - 23 July 1980. Your officials have been consulted; they supported the proposal, but were concerned that the French nuclear forces should not figure too prominently in the programme. The Embassy in Paris have now sounded out the French informally and I understand that President Giscard has accepted our suggestion of visits to the nuclear submarine base at Brest, the Intervention Force in the Toulouse area, and the French First Army at Alsace, which is a reasonable balance between nuclear and non-nuclear installations.

visited Emperor N.A.T.O. Jones? 2/15

I should be grateful if you would now confirm that the Secretary of State for Defence is content for us to convey to the French Prince Charles's formal acceptance of the invitation. If the visit goes ahead we shall ensure that the Ministry of Defence know when the visit is to be announced.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Michael Alexander (No 10) and would be grateful to know that the Prime Minister is content as well.

Yours etc

Paul

and

(P Lever)
Private Secretary

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