



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 April, 1982

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VISIT OF PRESIDENT REAGAN

Thank you for your letter of 7 April.

The Prime Minister is content with the proposed programme. She would also be pleased if Mrs Reagan would sit with her during the President's speech in the Royal Gallery. Mrs Thatcher is inclined to think that neither she nor the President should make statements during the airport arrival ceremonies since this would be inappropriate in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Prime Minister assumes that the audience in the Royal Gallery will not be limited to peers and MPs. Can you say what is envisaged?

Finally, Eustace Gibbs rang me this afternoon to say that it might be more convenient for all concerned if the Prime Minister spent the night of 8 June at Windsor Castle and held her talks with the President there the next morning. Mrs Thatcher quite appreciates that this would give the President a more convenient programme but is inclined to think that there are considerations arguing in the opposite direction. She may well need to have other Ministers, for example the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Defence Secretary, available for part of the talks and all three may find it easier to leave for Bonn from their own offices rather than from Windsor Castle. But the main consideration is probably that advanced earlier by the Americans, namely that the President should be seen to devote a good part of his visit to working activities and should have as much contact with the public as possible. It may, therefore, be better for the Prime Minister's talks with the President to take place at No.10, which will provide the possibility of a few words being said by them both to the press in Downing Street on President Reagan's departure.

I am copying this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office) and Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office).

F N Richards, Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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