

Original PM Tours Abroad
July 79, visit to USA.

file JD



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

~~B/f 7-12-79~~

19 November, 1979.

Ben Paul,

Prime Minister's Visit to the United States

Your letter to me of 16 November asked a number of questions about the Prime Minister's programme in Washington and New York. The Prime Minister agrees that the briefing for the British Press on 17 December should remain at its present length, and that her departure for New York should be put back by 15 minutes. The Prime Minister is willing to record the Barbara Walters interview on the morning of Monday, 17 December. I will be in touch with you further about the gap on Tuesday afternoon created by the re-timing of the interview with Barbara Walters.

I have discussed with the Prime Minister the question of the composition of the party to accompany her. She wishes the team to be as small as possible. Apart from members of the staff here at No.10, it will consist of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and Private Secretary, Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Michael Palliser.

I should be grateful if the briefing for this trip could reach me by close of play on Friday, 7 December. The briefing meeting will take place at 0930 on Friday, 14 December.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.