

Permanent Under-Secretary

Conservative Visitors

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher

The State Department have informed us that Mrs. Margaret Thatcher is proposing to visit Washington from 11 to 16 September. She would be accompanied by her Parliamentary Private Secretary, Mr. Butler, and I imagine that Mr. Rees, her Press Secretary, would also come. Mrs. Thatcher met President Carter when the President was in London for the Summits and it has been agreed in principle that she would have an appointment with the President during her Washington visit. The State Department so far have no further details about the visit. But they understand that she would like speaking engagements in New York and possibly in one other major centre (when Mrs. Thatcher visited the United States in 1975 she spoke in both New York and Chicago, as well as visiting Washington). The State Department also understand that Mr. Butler is thinking in terms of staying on after Mrs. Thatcher's visit for public speaking engagements on his own account.

Sir Geoffrey Howe

2. The United States Embassy in London have also informed the State Department that Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Shadow Chancellor, is proposing to visit Washington from 25 to 30 July, though these dates are still "adjustable".

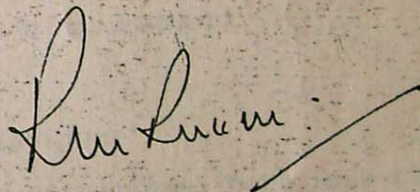
/He has asked

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He has asked for appointments with the President, the Treasury Secretary, Mr. Blumenthal, and Dr. Arthur Burns, Chairman of the Federal Reserve. The U.S. Embassy have presumed that an appointment with the President himself would be doubtful. They have, however, recommended strongly that Sir Geoffrey should meet Mr. Blumenthal and Dr. Burns. Sir Geoffrey is planning to go on from Washington to visit Chicago and California on business, wearing his E.M.I. hat.

3. The immediate problem would be posed if Sir Geoffrey Howe's dates coincide with or follow very shortly after the arrival of Mr. Jay to take up his appointment. It would appear from State Department information that he could move his dates slightly. If that is possible it might be worth considering thinking in terms of suggesting to Sir Geoffrey that he advance them. It might be difficult for him to put them back into August when the holiday season has started and high level appointments are difficult to secure. You may wish to discuss these visits with Mr. Jay.

4. I attach the programme for Mrs. Thatcher's 1975 visit.



R. M. Russell

27 May, 1977.

c.c. Mr. Greenstock  
Sir J. Moreton