

Mr Butler

RB

COPY TO MR THATCHER

cc Mr Coles
Mr Ingham
Miss Stephens
Mrs Goodchild

PRIME MINISTER

SOUTH ATLANTIC DINNER : MONDAY 11 OCTOBER

I attach - a note by Bernard Ingham on the media arrangements (Flag A); a draft seating plan (Flag B); and a note on guests at the dinner who will have appeared in the Honours List that morning (Flag C). John Coles is submitting a draft speech.

I am putting the citations in your weekend box.

The guests have been invited for 7.45 pm for 8.00 pm. You will see from Bernard Ingham's note that, since there will be a stand for the photograph in the Pillared Room (it is the only room in which we can do it), we are planning for you and Mr Thatcher to receive the guests in the Blue Drawing Room and for drinks in the White Drawing Room. When everybody has arrived - presumably by 8.15 pm - they will be invited to take up their positions on the stand for the photograph in the Pillared Room on their way through to dinner. The place of each person will be marked.

This stand will be removed during dinner so that the pillared room can be used for the reception after dinner.

Dinner will then probably start by 8.30 pm. The padre of 2 Para, the Reverend David Cooper, has been warned that you will probably invite him to say grace.

At the end of dinner I imagine that you will first propose the loyal toast, and then after a pause make your speech, at the end proposing the toast of "Her Majesty's Armed Services and the Merchant Marine, coupled with the name of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin". It would be as well to include some words to make clear that you expect everybody present to rise to this toast, including the members of the Armed Services present. We have asked Sir Terence Lewin then to reply briefly.

It would be as well if the dinner and speeches could be concluded by 10.00 pm, when the ladies have been asked to arrive for the reception. The invitation says that the reception will go on until 11.30 pm. I had thought that I would be about at the beginning of the evening to help John Coles and Bernard Ingham, who are attending the dinner, with marshalling. I also thought that John Coles's wife and mine and I could be about to receive the ladies if the dinner is not finished by 10.00 pm. Would you like us to do this?

F.R.B.

You may like a note about the flowers. The theme in the dining room will red, white and blue - red roses, white carnations, blue irises. There will be flowers to blend with the colours of the pillared and blue drawing rooms.

8 October 1982