



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

*Caroline. on looking at the
letter more closely - it would be
better to go on the Friday evening and
attend the opening ceremony on Saturday.
But I do not think it*

Thank you for your letter of 29 January. I am so pleased
to hear that you will be in residence at the Palace of Holyrood
House as Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the General
Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May and I would very much
like to come to Edinburgh at that time. Of the alternatives
you suggest, I think that ~~Saturday 16 for the Garden Party~~
~~and dinner, followed by the Church service and lunch on~~
~~Sunday 17 would really suit me best.~~ But as my office
explained to the Purse Bearer, I have two major speeches, one
on Monday 18 and one on Wednesday 20 of the following week
and it will therefore not be possible for me to make a speech
during my visit to Edinburgh.

I look forward to the occasion and hope that this suggestion
is convenient to you. My office will be in touch with the
Purse Bearer regarding the details of the composition of my
party.

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, DL, JP.

PRIME MINISTER

The attached letter is from the Lord High Commissioner in Scotland, the Earl of Elgin. It invites you to stay at Holyrood for a night when the General Assembly will be taking place. He offers you three dates: Friday 15 May, returning to London in the afternoon of Saturday 16th; or to arrive on the evening ✓ of the 16th in time for a Garden Party and attend a Church service on Sunday 17th. The third alternative is Friday 22 May, to attend the closing of the Assembly followed by a dinner. If you went, Clive Whitmore thinks it would be very difficult for you not to speak.

None of the dates are ideal as May is a very busy month. You are free on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 May but you have two major speeches the following week, one in Brighton when you open the British Robot Association Conference on the afternoon of Monday 18 May and on Wednesday 20 May there is the Women's Conference. Friday 15th is being kept free for speech writing.

Friday 22 May you are due to attend a cocktail party in Finchley and it is the beginning of the Whitsun recess, which, as you know, I am trying to keep free. It must also be remembered that you will have been to Scotland two weeks previously for the Scottish Conference. There is also the question of whether you go to Sullom Voe about which I have sent you a separate minute.

Agree that this invitation should be refused?

*Hand letter to
if I can we
Scott leave
Sunday there will be
no time for
a speech
me*

10 February 1981

ES.

Very attached.