

PRIME MINISTER

*W. H. H. H.*

YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER

Sir Fitzroy Maclean has written to ask you to see the Yugoslav Foreign Minister when he visits Britain soon.

There is a history to this. From the moment this visit was first mooted, we have said that you would not be able to see the Foreign Minister. This was because:

- you have already been very generous in the time you have devoted to senior Yugoslav visitors in the last eighteen months;
- we are under constant pressure for you to see Foreign Ministers. We almost invariably refuse, otherwise your diary would be even more impossible than it already is. We made an exception for the Japanese, a really major trading partner. But we refuse EC Foreign Ministers (except in the past Spain), major Commonwealth partners and so on. It really is important to preserve.

The Yugoslav Ambassador has been lobbying everyone in town to get the decision changed and Fitzroy Maclean is his latest target.

I really hope very much that you will support the firm line which Tessa and I have been taking against this, otherwise our defences will be undercut. Anyway all he wants is more money, and we haven't any to give!

Agree not to see him?

C. D. POWELL

17 January 1989

PM3AGN