

XII. PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S VISIT TO OTTAWA, MAY 16-18, 1961

Introduction

As President Kennedy remarked on arrival at Uplands airport with Mrs. Kennedy on May 16 it was fitting that his first trip since assuming the presidency should be to "the oldest of our neighbours and among the closest of our friends".

(a) Presidential Party

Why not get in the US Embassy

Since no printed final programme as issued by the Department of the Secretary of State is on any DEA file, it is not possible to enumerate accurately the members of the Presidential party who accompanied him on his plane. It may have numbered 25 people and definitely included Messrs. O'Donnell, Pierre Salinger, Col. McHugh, Walt Rostow, W. J. Hartigan, Letitia Baldrige, Ambassador Biddle Duke, Ivan White, and Milton Rewinkel. There were a considerable number (exact figure unknown) of Secret Service men on the plane. Nearly 100 USA press, radio, TV and film personnel arrived in Ottawa on a press plane about two hours before the President's plane landed at Uplands.

(b) Procedures

The Government Hospitality Committee (GHC) was in charge of the arrangements for the visit and its chairman, the Department's Chief of Protocol, Mr. H. F. Davis, established two sub-committees of the GHC. One was the Programme sub-committee chaired by DEA's Chief of Protocol, and the other was the Publicity Arrangements sub-committee chaired by DEA's Press Officer. The GHC's first meeting (see attached Minutes marked "A") was held on April 18. Later meetings were on April 20, 24 and 27. On April 25 two joint meetings were held with the US Group Planning the Visit (see attached Minutes marked "A-1" and "A-2") *117?*

At this April 25 joint meeting, the US Secret Service were advised, with the Prime Minister's approval, that they could not carry arms either in the House of Commons Chamber, in the House of Commons Gallery or anywhere within the precincts of Parliament. Concerning their request to use a "bubble car" for the President except when he was accompanied by the Governor General or the Prime Minister, they were informed (after seeking the Prime Minister's approval) that there was no objection provided no guns were sticking out.

The Prime Minister's Office requested the Department for briefing background notes for the PM's use at confidential conversations with the President; notes for the PM's 7-8 minute speech of introduction when presenting the President on May 17 to Parliament; notes for after-lunch and after-dinner remarks on May 16 and 17; and notes for a short welcoming statement at the arrival ceremony on May 16.

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Glen
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should
know
what?*