

BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER - 30th APRIL, 1955.

Arrangements

2.45 p.m.

The Prime Minister will arrive at the Borough boundary on the Tachbrook Road near the Lockheed Works and will stop behind the Mayor's car at the point on the west side of the road facing the town already agreed with the Superintendent of Police. (A police car is to make contact first with the Prime Minister's car in the neighbourhood of Oakley Wood at about 2.40 p.m. and will precede him to the point of reception). The Mayor and Mayoress and the Town Clerk will receive the Prime Minister and Lady Eden.

The Mayoress will present a bouquet to Lady Eden.

The procession will prepare to move off in the following order:-

- (1) Police Car.
- (2) Open Landulette with the Prime Minister and Lady Eden.
- (3) The Mayor's car with the Mace, the Mayor and Mayoress, and the Town Clerk.
- (4) Pullman car with Deputy Mayor and Mrs. Ashton.

(Press photographers' cars may perhaps be interspersed before and after the Prime Minister's car).

Route of Procession: Tachbrook Road, Lower Avenue, Adelaide Road, Avenue Road, Dale Street, Binswood Street, Rugby Road roundabout, Binswood Avenue, Kenilworth Road, Parade, Jephson Gardens.

3.5 p.m.

Arrive at Jephson Gardens opposite the Pump Rooms. Cars will drive in through the main gates and stop at the agreed point. The Chairman of the Parks and Gardens Committee, Alderman Wallsgrove, will be waiting near the tree (a short walk from the cars) to receive the Prime Minister. The Alderman will greet him and Lady Eden and invite the Prime Minister to plant the tree. Cars in the meantime will turn round and face the main entrance gates ready to drive to the Town Hall. The party will re-enter the cars, Alderman Wallsgrove and the Parks Superintendent travelling with the Deputy Mayor.

3.20 p.m.

Arrival at the Town Hall. The Prime Minister will inspect a Guard of Honour of the local Home Guard. (Colonel Moss will be in charge). The Mayoral party, including Alderman Wallsgrove, will then go into the Parlour.

3.30 p.m.

The party will enter the Assembly Hall and take their places on the platform. The Mayor will make his speech of welcome and the Prime Minister will reply.

3.50 p.m.

The Prime Minister will appear on the Town Hall balcony and make a short speech to the crowd.

4 p.m.

When the Prime Minister has finished his speech on the balcony the members of the Council at a given signal will leave the platform and lead the assembly out of the hall. Members of the Council and Magistrates and their ladies with Mayor's invitations to tea will proceed into the Council Chamber. Other guests will descend the stairs and leave the building.

4.20 p.m.

The Prime Minister and Lady Eden will leave for Warwick.

(Note. Intermediate timings are necessarily approximate.)

BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

CIVIC WELCOME TO THE PRIME MINISTER

(The Right Honourable Sir R. Anthony Eden, K.G., M.C., M.P.)

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

in the Assembly Hall

- 3 p.m. Guests are requested to occupy their seats.
Light music is to be played by Mr. C. E. Gradwell's trio.
- 3.15 p.m. Members of the Council will enter the Hall, proceed to the platform and take their appointed places.
- 3.30 p.m. Entry into the Hall of the Mace; His Worship the Mayor with the Prime Minister; the Town Clerk; the Mayoress and Lady Eden; the Deputy Mayor and Mrs. Ashton.

Address of Welcome by the Mayor.

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER

- 3.50 p.m. The Mayor and the Prime Minister, the Town Clerk, the Mayoress and Lady Eden, the Deputy Mayor and Mrs. Ashton, will leave the platform, preceded by the Mace, and go to the Town Hall balcony. *All other guests and members of the Council are requested to remain in their places to hear the Prime Minister's further remarks relayed into the Assembly Room.*

- 4 p.m. **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.**

Members of the Council will leave the platform and other guests will then be at liberty to follow them out of the Assembly Hall. (Those with yellow tickets should go to the Council Chamber; others will kindly leave the Town Hall by any of the usual exits as requested by the stewards.)

(NOTE: Timings are necessarily approximate.)

(Not to be published before the ceremony).

BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA 30th April, 1955.

Visit of the Prime Minister (The Right Honourable Sir R. Anthony Eden K.G., M.C., M.P.,)

ADDRESS OF WELCOME by His Worship the Mayor
(Councillor E. E. Fryer, C.C.)

"Mr. Prime Minister,

[We, the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors and Burgesses of the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa, desire to extend to you a most cordial welcome upon the occasion of this your first appearance in our midst since your recent appointment to the highest public office in the land. *Annals*]

"You, Sir, were good enough to visit the Council two years ago when you became Secretary for Foreign Affairs - an office for which you had been so clearly destined for a great many years. Now, upon your assumption of an even more onerous and responsible post, you do us the signal honour of accepting our invitation to pay us an official visit as Prime Minister. It is indeed a proud and happy day for us all.

"We cannot on this occasion confer upon you the honorary Freedom of the Borough. That - the highest municipal honour within our power to bestow - you have enjoyed since 1934. Disappointing, therefore, though it may be that we are unable to stage such a ceremony now, we do at least aim to mark to-day in a fitting manner the esteem and affection in which we in Leamington hold you, and our pleasure that the greatest political office has at last gone to our own Member.

["We yield to none in our admiration of Sir Winston Churchill, but we can think of no better person than you, Sir, to take up the heavy burden so long carried by that grand old Elder Statesman."]

"Sir Anthony: we do not desire to claim for ourselves any sole proprietary rights in you. We know that in this Division you represent not only our own town but those of Warwick and Kenilworth, as well as a large rural area. We can but feel, however - without any reflection upon our neighbours - that, as the largest single corporate unit of your constituency, we are singularly fitted to express to you on behalf of the townspeople our pride in your appointment, and our pleasure at your presence with us along with your charming wife. She must indeed be an abiding comfort to you, and will continue so to be, God willing, in the difficult years that lie ahead.

"Some time after my invitation was conveyed to you, Sir, the Government's intention to hold a General Election was announced. (I am not suggesting that the one occasioned the other!). This entailed some alteration in the form of our ceremony, and it was thought advisable to cut out most of the hospitality we would have liked to extend. That does not, however, cause us in Leamington to diminish in any degree the warmth of our welcome.

["We feel that having been represented in Parliament so well and so diligently by you, Sir Anthony, since 1923, and having followed your rise step by step, to the topmost rung of the ladder, we should be lacking in all sense of fitness now were we to fail to receive you in this manner at the time of your greatest personal triumph."]

"Furthermore, General Election or no, we now express to you our heartfelt good wishes for continued success in whatever role fortune may assign to you. May you long be spared, Sir, for the service of our town, the country, and the free world."]

COPY EXTRACT FROM CUTTING FROM BIRMINGHAM POST.

.....There was one could see, a wealth of meaning in the firmness of his handshake with Ald. Charles Gardner, Leamington's first Socialist Mayor, who, on Saturday, put on his scarlet robes to greet the Premier. That grip cut across party differences, and was a symbol of mutual trust and respect."

original cutting sent
to Town Clerk Leamington
owing to commentary error