

FAXED 11/11/99

MEMORANDUM

From: [REDACTED] Your ref:
Operational Policing Policy Unit File ref:
Home Office
Room 544
Queen Anne's Gate

Tel: [REDACTED]

Date: 11 November 1999

To: [REDACTED] cc:
China Hong Kong Department
FCO

CHINESE STATE VISIT: POLICING

Thank you for your note of 9 November concerning the question to Baroness Scotland. We have consulted the Metropolitan Police and would suggest the form of words set out below to use in response to the Lord Moynihan question on the Royal Parks by-laws:

“Legislation within the Royal Parks applies to every event, be it State Visit or any other event. Its enforcement is an operational matter for the police. Any identified organisation intent on attending the Royal Parks are also sent a letter by the Royal Parks Constabulary, highlighting the fact that demonstrations are banned within the Park. The only exceptions to the Park regulations are for organisations which obtain written permission from the Secretary of State”.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

W

Number of people arrested in the Metropolitan Police area in connection with activities related to each State Visit in the period 1997 – 1999 are as follows:

State Visit	Date of Visit		Arrests
President of Israel	From:	25.02.97	0
	To:	28.02.97	
President of Brazil	From:	02.12.97	0
	To:	05.12.97	
Emperor of Japan	From:	25.05.98	0
	To:	29.05.98	
President of Germany	From:	01.12.98	0
	To:	03.12.98	
President of Hungary	From:	22.06.99	0
	To:	25.06.99	
President of China	From:	19.10.99	1 BOP
		20.10.99	4 BOP 2 BOP De-arrested
		21.10.99	2 BOP 1 Drugs 2 Sec 4 POA 3 BOP De-arrested
	To:	22.10.99	0

Key:

BOP = Breach of Peace

POA = Public Order Act 1986

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FOR ORAL ANSWER ON THURSDAY 11
NOVEMBER 1999**

The Lord Phillips of Sudbury: To ask her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the policing of the State Visit of the President of China, they will undertake a review of public order legislation and its enforcement.

DRAFT REPLY (Lord Bassam):

The Government believes that police powers contained in the Public Order Act 1986 and other legislation are sufficiently robust to meet the demands of situations of public disorder. Enforcement of legislation is an operational matter for chief officers of police. There are no plans to undertake a specific review at present, but we will of course take account of any lessons to be learned from the planned police review of the policing arrangements for the State Visit.

BULL POINTS

- Metropolitan Police say that a total of fifteen people were arrested for various public order offences during the State Visit to London – of these four were released with no further action taken, three others received formal warnings, two were cautioned and five were de-arrested (released almost immediately after arrest). One person was bailed pending investigation of a possible drugs offence. Does not indicate heavy-handed use of public order legislation by police.
- Policing of the Chinese President's visit and any enforcement of public order legislation are operational matters for chief officers of police.
- Neither the Home Office nor the Foreign Office issued any instructions to the police or otherwise interfered with the operational policing arrangements for the visit.
- FCO officials held routine meetings with the Metropolitan Police to go through the programme for the visit, so that the Metropolitan Police could make operational decisions on security for the State Visit. These decisions were for the Metropolitan Police alone.
- FCO officials also discussed the security of the visit with the Chinese Embassy in London, and held an informal meeting with them shortly before the Visit.
- The Metropolitan Police consider that the law was applied equally to those supporting and those opposed to the President. They have indicated that they will be undertaking a thorough debrief and review of policing arrangements, as is normal practice with all public order and major events.
- Range of powers available to police to deal with public disorder.