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Confidential Filing

Princess Margarets possible visit
to China to attend a performance
of the Royal Ballet;
Visit to China by Duke of Edinburgh

ROYAL FAMILY

AUGUST 1982

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
10.8.82							
11.8.82							
20.9.82							
11.10.82							
14.10.82							
9.11.82							
12.11.82							
28.1.83							
8.11.83							
11.11.83							
16.1.84							
30.1.84							

PREM 19/1368

<p>DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i></p> <p>PIECE/ITEM <i>1368</i></p> <p>(one piece/item number)</p>	<p>Date and sign</p>
<p>Extract/Item details:</p> <p><i>Letter from Gibbs to McGrath dated 30 January 1984</i></p>	
<p>CLOSED FOR <i>37</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION</p>	<p><i>17 April 2014</i> <i>(Wayland)</i></p>
<p>RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958</p>	
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<p>NUMBER NOT USED</p>	

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>1368</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract/Item details: <i>Letter from Butler to Ricketts dated 16 January 1984</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>37</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>17 April 2014 Wayland</i>
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	
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NUMBER NOT USED	

The advice at X/ sees
wise. Agree?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

FCO

London SW1A 2AH

13.1



13 January 1984

Dear Robin,

Royal Visit to China: The Duke of Edinburgh

I wrote to John Coles on 7 November about the proposal for a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh, in spring 1984, to the Panda Reserve in Sichuan, China. Your reply of 8 November recorded the Prime Minister's approval to this visit on the basis that it should be made explicitly in the Duke of Edinburgh's capacity as President of the World Wildlife Fund, and that it should, if possible, be confined to the south of China and should not include Peking.

We have since learnt that a visit in Spring 1984 will not be possible, and that the Chinese now wish to propose a visit in September. We sought the views of Sir P Cradock before he left Peking, and he has advised that in view of the Chinese intention to announce their plans for the future of Hong Kong in September, whatever the outcome of the present negotiations, the situation then is likely to be tense. He has therefore recommended that a visit during that period should be avoided.

Passage deleted and closed under FOI Exemption.
CWayland. 17 April 2014

Yes
ms

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

F E R Butler Esq
10 Downing Street



Mr R Butler
PS/Prime Minister

With the compliments of

FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
LONDON, SW1A 2AH

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>1368</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract/Item details: <i>Letter from Gibbs to McGrath dated 11 November 1983</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>37</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>17 April 2014</i> <i>Wayland</i>
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Do re.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

8 November 1983

Royal Visits to China : The Duke of Edinburgh

The Prime Minister is content with the proposal that the possibility of a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh to China next spring should be pursued on the basis set out in your letter of 7 November to John Coles, namely that the visit should be explicitly in his capacity as President of the World Wildlife Fund International and that it should, if possible, be a visit to the South of China only without including Peking. Please will you continue to keep me in touch with the progress of this proposal.

FRB

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister

London SW1A 2AH

The FCO have come round
in favour of a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh
^{but} ~~press~~ suggest that it should be explicitly in
his World Wildlife capacity and
confined to South China. Are you
content?

7 November 1983

Dear John,

— FERS

7.11.

Yes me

Royal Visits to China: The Duke of Edinburgh

Robin Butler's letter of 12 November 1982 to John Holmes recorded the Prime Minister's views that it would be better for Princess Margaret not to visit Peking in May this year and that we should not pursue for the time being the idea of a State Visit by The Queen in 1984 or visits by the Duke of Edinburgh or the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Early this year, because of a fresh Chinese approach, we had another look at the question of a May visit by Princess Margaret. Your letter of 28 January recorded the Prime Minister's agreement with the Foreign Secretary's recommendation that such a visit would still be inappropriate. After consultation with Kensington Palace we accordingly told the Chinese Embassy that Princess Margaret's other engagements obliged her to decline the Chinese Government's invitation.

Recently an earlier, very tentative proposal for a visit to China by the Duke of Edinburgh, in his capacity as President of the World Wildlife Fund International (WWF) has again arisen. WWF have been cooperating with the Chinese Environmental Protection Office on a project to conserve the giant panda in China, including the establishment of a Research Centre at the Panda Reserve at Wolong in Sichuan. Early in 1981 we learnt informally that the Chinese Government wished to invite the Duke to visit the Panda Reserve and Research Centre after its completion in 1983. We were told then that they deliberately wished the invitation to be to the Duke in his WWF capacity, rather than as a member of the Royal Family, both because the panda project is one major area of Chinese cooperation with WWF and because this would make it easier to handle the visit in China enabling protocol to be kept to the minimum.

Passage deleted and closed under FOI Exemption.

AWayland, 17 April 2014

If we approve, it would be possible for a WWF representative, who is visiting Peking from 21 November, to discuss arrangements with the Ambassador and the Chinese Government, with a view to a visit next spring.

/I attach



I attach a copy of Peking telegram number 1090 which sets out Sir P Cradock's view of the proposal. We share both his continuing reservations about Royal visits in general and his view that a working visit by the Duke to the south of China only would carry less risk of embarrassment over Hong Kong than the earlier proposal for a visit to Peking by Princess Margaret. The explanation the Ambassador suggests for not including Peking in the itinerary should be acceptable. The Chinese have only a hazy understanding of royal protocol matters and are likely to defer to our preferences, particularly as they wish to have a successful State Visit in due course.

We do not think that Hong Kong public opinion would be concerned about the kind of visit envisaged. It would be presented as a WWF working visit rather than a bilateral protocol one. The campaign to save the panda is of international appeal and probably beyond China's own resources; no one would wish to seem to hinder the WWF's efforts in this regard. Any criticism of the Duke's visit could be countered by these points. Furthermore, the media in Hong Kong are likely to interpret Chinese hospitality for the Duke as a sign of goodwill towards Britain.

We should also consider the effect on the Chinese of a rejection of their invitation, so soon after our rebuff of their invitation to Princess Margaret. They would almost certainly see this as a deliberate decision by HMG to keep down the temperature of UK/China relations. This would be an unfortunate signal at a time when we hope for movement in the Hong Kong talks and when the Chinese are themselves seeking to demonstrate their interest in a substantial long-term relationship (recent offshore oil exploration and development contracts are striking examples of this). From this point of view, giving the WWF proposal a green light could be a modest but useful confidence-building gesture.

The Foreign Secretary accordingly agrees in principle with this proposal. If the Prime Minister also agrees, we shall inform the Duke of Edinburgh's Private Secretary and subject to his views authorise the Ambassador to begin to discuss the practical arrangements with the World Wildlife Fund. We would keep a very close eye on detailed arrangements.

The question of possible embarrassment caused by our earlier recommendation against a visit by Princess Margaret, taken together with the present recommendation, is perhaps rather for the Palace to resolve. Princess Margaret is believed still to be interested in visiting China.

Yours ever,
 (P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

GR 475
CONFIDENTIAL
FM PEKING 270300Z OCT 83
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1090 OF 27 OCTOBER
INFO PRIORITY HONG KONG

CONFIDENTIAL

TOP SECRET
FEC 397/2
31 OCT 1983
287*

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10/31/11
cc MAED.

POSSIBLE VISIT BY DUKE OF EDINBURGH

1. WE HAVE HAD A TELEX FROM MARK HALLE IN THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND HEADQUARTERS IN SWITZERLAND TO SAY THAT HE WILL BE VISITING PEKING FROM 21-26 NOVEMBER AND WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH THE CHINESE A PROPOSED VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE WWF (HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH) TO THE PANDA RESERVE AT WOLONG IN SICHUAN IN SPRING 1984. THE PANDA RESERVE IS A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN THE WWF AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. HALLE HAS ASKED TO CALL ON ME FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF THIS PROPOSAL. WE HAVE REPLIED THAT I WOULD BE GLAD TO SEE HIM.
2. I AM STILL UNEASY ABOUT ROYAL VISITS TO CHINA IN GENERAL. THE RISK I SEE IS THAT THE CHINESE MIGHT IN SOME WAY SEEK TO USE SUCH A VISIT TO ASSOCIATE THE ROYAL FAMILY WITH THEIR POLICY ON HONG KONG, FOR INSTANCE BY RAISING IT IN A GENERAL WAY WHEN THE VISITOR CALLED ON A LEADER AND THEN SUGGESTING IN PUBLICITY THAT ALL PRESENT HAD BEEN IN AGREEMENT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THIS RISK IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE - SINCE I CANNOT PREDICT NOW HOW NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE GOING BY SPRING 1984. IF THEY ARE GOING WELL THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM AND EVEN SOME ADVANTAGE IN A VISIT, SINCE IT WOULD EMPHASISE THE COOPERATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA. ON THE OTHER HAND IF A VISIT IS SET UP AND THE TALKS DO NOT GO WELL, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CANCEL IT AT A LATER STAGE.
3. A VISIT BY THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH TO WOLONG UNDER HIS WWF HAT CLEARLY CARRIES LESS RISK THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE IF PRINCESS MARGARET HAD COME TO PEKING EARLIER THIS YEAR. I ALSO RECOGNISE THAT AN ATTEMPT TO STOP THE DUKE GOING TO WOLONG WOULD BE LESS THAN POPULAR. THE RISKS WOULD BE LESSENERED IF THE DUKE WERE TO GO DIRECTLY FROM HONG KONG TO SICHUAN, AND DID NOT COME TO PEKING. THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE, BUT WE COULD AT LEAST TRY.
4. ON THE WHOLE I AM INCLINED TO ADVISE THAT WE SHOULD TELL THE WWF THAT THERE ARE SOME SENSITIVITIES ABOUT SUCH A VISIT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT WE SHOULD PREFER TO ENSURE THAT IT REMAINS ENTIRELY NON-POLITICAL BY CONFINING IT TO SOUTH CHINA. THE CHINESE WOULD PROBABLY INVITE THE DUKE TO PEKING. WE COULD PERHAPS COUNTER THIS BY SAYING THAT WE WOULD PREFER THE FIRST ROYAL VISIT TO PEKING TO BE A BILATERAL ONE RATHER THAN ONE UNDER WWF AUSPICES.

CRADOCK
LIMITED
FED
H&K
PROTOCOL.D.
NEWS.D.

PS/MR. LUCE
MR. GIFFARD
MR. DONALD

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

CONFIDENTIAL

Royal Family
: possible visit to China by Queen Margaret,
Aug 82

E7 NOV 1983



Royal Family

CONFIDENTIAL



file

BTC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 January 1983

ROYAL VISITS TO CHINA

Thank you for your letter of 27 January.

The Prime Minister agrees with the views of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and that you should therefore write to Princess Margaret's Private Secretary telling him that it is still the view of Ministers that a visit by Her Royal Highness to Peking in May would be inappropriate.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Agree that we should continue
to advise the Palace against
a visit by Princess Margaret to
Peking in May?
A.S.C. 27/1.

27 January, 1983

Yes - Hong Kong news
renewed
mt

Dear John,

Royal Visits to China

Robin Butler's letter of 12 November 1982 confirmed the Prime Minister's view that it would be better for Princess Margaret not to visit Peking in May 1983 at the time of the Royal Ballet performances there, and recorded that the Princess had accepted this advice.

The question has now been reopened by the Chinese. At the end of last month the Senior Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy called on the FCO's Far Eastern Department to say that he had been asked to find out whether Princess Margaret might visit Peking at the time of the Royal Ballet performances. If this would not pose protocol or practical difficulties for us his Government would like to extend a formal invitation. The Department undertook to consider the proposal and to let the Embassy have an answer in due course.

We have therefore looked again very carefully at the arguments, seeing some differences between a visit at our initiative and a visit at the invitation of the Chinese. Consultation with Sir P Cradock in Peking and Sir E Youde in Hong Kong however has indicated that they remain strongly opposed to such a visit. Sir E Youde, while agreeing that business as normal should be carried on, is of the view that a visit by Princess Margaret would be badly received in Hong Kong, as a new expression of Sino-British friendship at a time when we might be going through a very difficult time on the talks. For his part, Sir P Cradock is clear that the original arguments against a visit (the advantage to the Chinese of creating the impression that all was well, and fears of an adverse reaction in Hong Kong and consequent embarrassment for the Princess) remain. He also argues that the opposite case, that we should take an opportunity to reinforce the stability of our overall relations despite difficulties over Hong Kong, is weak in that our interest in Hong Kong is the most important element in our bilateral relationship.

In the light of the strong views expressed by both the Ambassador and the Governor, Mr Pym recommends that the earlier decision that a visit to Peking would be inappropriate should stand. If the Prime Minister agrees we shall write to Princess Margaret's Private Secretary telling him that the Chinese have approached us but that it still the view of Ministers that a visit would be inappropriate; and we shall

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politely decline the Chinese suggestion on the grounds that notice is now too short.

Your ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

Royal Family,
Aug 82, Princess
Margaret's visit
to China.



27 JAN 1983



CONFIDENTIAL



ls
Royal family.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

12 November, 1982.

Royal Visits to China

I am sorry not to have given you an earlier reply to your letter of 25 October, addressed to John Coles, about plans for Royal Visits to China.

John Coles has already reported to you the Prime Minister's view that it would be better for Princess Margaret not to visit Peking in May 1983: this advice has been conveyed to the Princess, and I understand that she has accepted it. The Prime Minister also takes the view that we should not pursue for the time being the idea of a State Visit by The Queen in 1984, or visits by the Duke of Edinburgh or the Prince and Princess of Wales.

E. E. R. BUTLER

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

R



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Shrewsbury
not

This letter was mislaid
for a while. We have now
advised against Princess Margaret's
visit to Peking, and the
Princess has accepted that advice.

If you agree, I will
tell the FCO that you agree
that we should not pursue ~~for~~
the time being the idea of a
State visit by The Queen in 1989,
or visits by the Duke of Edinburgh
or Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

R.R.B.

11.11.



Sir Antony Acland KCMG KCVO
Permanent Under-Secretary of State

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 November 1982

Major the Lord Napier and Ettrick MVO
KENSINGTON PALACE

Dear Nigel - *with request if required*

I am very sorry about the delay in answering your letter of 1 November about the possibility of Princess Margaret visiting China next year at the time of the Royal Ballet's Gala Performance in Peking, but as Julian Bullard explained in his letter of 20 August, the Prime Minister decided that our advice should await the outcome of her own discussions with the Chinese on the future of Hong Kong and other matters. We have considered the proposal against that background and also with the prospects for future discussions over Hong Kong in mind. It is difficult to know exactly how things will go but it is very possible that at the time of the proposed visit we could be at a difficult stage in our negotiations with the Chinese, with consequent strains in our relations and a hostile Chinese press. In any event, the Chinese would see a political signal in a visit by a senior member of the Royal Family and this might well not be, in the circumstances, the right message to send. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has therefore reluctantly concluded that he must advise against the visit. The Prime Minister, who is of course aware of the Royal Ballet's invitation to Princess Margaret and of Her Royal Highness' views, agrees.

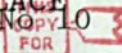
I am sorry to have to write with this advice. I can only say that the matter has been very carefully considered. It is an unlucky chance that the visit would be likely to coincide with the development of these very difficult and delicate discussions.

Yours ever
Antony

Antony Acland

cc: The Rt Hon Sir Philip Moore KCB KCVO CMG

Buckingham Palace
Bcc: A J Coles Esq



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Royal Family *Group*

File

8 November 1982

POSSIBLE VISIT OF
HRH PRINCESS MARGARET TO CHINA

There was some discussion of this question during the Prime Minister's visit to Paris at the end of last week. I conveyed to Sir Anthony Acland Mrs. Thatcher's view that, against the background of our current negotiations with China over Hong Kong, it was desirable that Princess Margaret should not visit China at this time.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL



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Prime Minister

Do you agree that there
should be no Royal visits until
there is an agreement on Hong Kong?
Perhaps we should consider having a
Foreign and Commonwealth Office visit by
a minor Royal as
London SW1A 2AH a way of signifying
approval if and when
we make ~~major~~ ^{major}
progress, but not until then?

25 October 1982

FERS

25.10.

Dear John,

Royal Visits to China

You have asked for advice on whether, in the light of the Prime Minister's recent visit to Peking, earlier plans for Royal Visits to China should be pursued. This follows Tim Flesher's letter of 11 August recording the Prime Minister's view that matters should not be taken further until after her return from the Far East, when they could be considered against the background of her discussions with the Chinese.

We had been developing plans for a visit by Princess Margaret in May 1983, and a possible State Visit by Her Majesty The Queen in 1984. Visits by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince and Princess of Wales also appear as possibilities on the Royal Visits Committee's schedule, but these have not so far been given serious consideration.

In the aftermath of the Prime Minister's visit, the Ambassador has recommended that plans both for Princess Margaret and for the State Visit should be set aside for the time being. He argues that at the time of Princess Margaret's proposed visit, May 1983, we could be at a difficult stage in our negotiations with the Chinese over the future of Hong Kong, with consequent strain in our relations and a hostile Chinese press. A visit in such circumstances might embarrass Princess Margaret, as well as HMG. Similar considerations apply to moving forward in present circumstances with advance planning for a State Visit

/by

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by The Queen in 1984. The Ambassador argues that a substantial gesture of this kind could expose us to the charge of inconsistency in our dealings with the Chinese if we were having at the same time to respond to troubled relations over Hong Kong.

We agree with the Ambassador's advice. It is customary to regard Royal Visits as symbolic occasions. Certainly the Chinese would look upon any major visit by a senior member of the Royal Family (even if linked with a cultural event) in this way. It would therefore be inappropriate to proceed with earlier plans until we once again have the prospect, as last Spring we hoped to have, of a steady development of our relations with a State Visit in due course as a suitable culmination. That prospect is likely to emerge again if and when we have been able to negotiate an agreement on the future of Hong Kong but not before. Then Royal Visits might usefully mark the opening of a new chapter in Anglo-Chinese relations. In the meantime they would carry the risk of embarrassment.

If the Prime Minister agrees, we will brief the Royal Visits Committee accordingly early next month and of course advise Princess Margaret.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

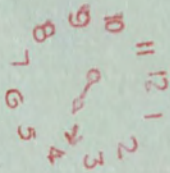
(J E Holmes)

Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

Royal family: Princess H's. possible visit
to China 8/82



25 OCT 1982



10 DOWNING STREET

Mr. Butler

I was not aware of these papers (except the last one).

2. I think it is at least open to question whether, given our difficulties with the Chinese, and the complete uncertainty as to how relations will be between now and May/June, 1953, it is right for Sir Alexander Sargent's plans to Peking to go ahead.

3. I have asked the F/C.O. to let us have advice.

A.S.C. $\frac{14}{10}$.

Mr. Coler ~~10~~ $\frac{15}{10}$.

I was not aware of the earlier papers either. I agree with the action you have taken. I also doubt whether it is justified for Princess Margaret to go solely to Peking at public expense. FERB 14.10

John.

The FCO are asking of the PM
is content for the FCO to advise Princess
Margaret that the Far East Test of the Royal Ballet
is acceptable (see Willie's minute dated 10/6/82)

Sir Robert Armstrong's minute
to Robin (15/9/82) and Robin's reply (4/10/82)
seem to kill any bf on the file.

Are you content that we let
the FCO know that the PM has no objections or
would you prefer to ask the PM again.

Over
14/10.



Royal Family
2.6 AH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

FAR EAST TOUR OF THE ROYAL BALLET

I was grateful for your minute of 15 September (A09475) about the proposals for the Royal Ballet's Far East tour, which I was glad to have with me on our trip.

So far as John Coles and I are aware, nothing came up in Peking which had any relevance for the proposed tour or for the proposed reply to Princess Margaret. The only reference in Tokyo was when Princess Chichibu mentioned to the Prime Minister that she understood that Princess Alexandra might be coming to Tokyo at the time of the Royal Ballet's visit: we said that we had no other information apart from the possible plans of Princess Margaret.

F.R.B.

4 October 1982

AA

910
Ref. A09475

MR BUTLER

--- I attach a note on the proposals for a Far East tour by the Royal Ballet next year. I do not suggest that you need show this to the Prime Minister, but you may like to have it by you during the tour, in case the matter is raised.

2. On the question of attendance at Gala Performances by a member of the Royal Family, the Royal Ballet recognise that the Gala Performances in the four cities concerned are so widely spread in time that they cannot expect one member of the Royal Family to do them all. It could, however, be possible for a member of the Royal Family to do the Gala Performances in Seoul and Peking. Princess Margaret has been invited accordingly. I understand that she is willing to go to Peking, but has expressed the wish not to go to Seoul. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been approached about the possibility of making such a visit an official visit, which would be supported by public funds. The view is taken that there is not sufficient public interest in Princess Margaret's visit to Peking to justify public support for that alone. But there would be considerable political and diplomatic advantages if Princess Margaret were willing to go to Seoul, and it is therefore proposed to tell her Private Secretary that, if she was prepared to visit Seoul and Peking, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office would be prepared to accept that as an official visit and to provide financial support accordingly. This reply is not being communicated to Princess Margaret until the Prime Minister has returned from her tour, in case it produces any developments which might be relevant.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

15 September 1982

Briefing note for the Prime Minister on The Royal Ballet's
Far East Tour - 25th April to 18th June, 1983

1. The Royal Ballet will visit the United States and The Far East in the Spring of 1983, leaving London on 16th April and returning on 20th June.

2. Their itinerary is as follows:

Japan

They will perform in Tokyo from 25th April to 5th May, and in five other Japanese cities (Osaka, Nagoya, Kobe, Hiroshima and Fukuoka).

Korea

Seoul - 17th to 21st May. This has been planned to coincide with the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Cultural Agreement between Korea and Great Britain.

China

Peking - 25th May to 1st June; Shanghai - 4th to 7th June; Canton - 9th to 11th June.

Hong Kong - 14th to 18th June.

3. It is very much hoped that Gala Performances in Tokyo, Seoul, Peking and Hong Kong will be attended by a member of the Royal Family. Sir Claus Moser, Chairman, The Royal Opera House, has invited HRH The Princess Margaret to attend Galas in Seoul and Peking. It is felt that, with the exception of Peking, these occasions will afford an excellent opportunity to raise badly needed funds for the Royal Opera House Development Appeal, which is still some £400,000 short of its £10 million target to complete Phase I of their Development project.



CM
28/8

With the compliments of

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
LONDON, SW1A 2AH

CONFIDENTIAL

Royal Family



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 August 1982

Major the Lord Napier and Ettrick MVO
Kensington Palace
LONDON W8

Antony Acland sent you an interim reply on 8 July to your letter of 30 June about the suggestion that Princess Margaret might visit China next May for the Royal Ballet's Gala opening in Peking.

It now seems likely that we shall not be able to let you have our view until after the Prime Minister returns from her visit to the Far East at the end of September. The Prime Minister, who is aware of the invitation to Princess Margaret and of Her Royal Highness's views, feels that final advice to Her Royal Highness on the visit should be formulated in the light of her own discussions with the Chinese on the future of Hong Kong and other matters.

J L Bullard

bcc The Rt Hon Sir Philip Moore KCB KCVO CMG
Buckingham Palace

Private Secretary, No 10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

Royal Family

File 16



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 August 1982

PROPOSED VISIT BY PRINCESS MARGARET TO CHINA

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Anthony Acland's letter to Sir Robert Armstrong of 5 August, as well as Sir Robert's reply of 9 August. She feels that a decision on the advice to be given to the Palace about Princess Margaret's visit should not be made until after she has returned from her visit to the Far East. She would like to consider this matter in the light of her discussions with the Chinese, both on the future of Hong Kong, and on the prospects of a visit by The Queen.

I am copying this letter to Sir Philip Moore and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

TIMOTHY FLESHER

Michael Jay, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Handwritten initials or signature in the bottom right corner.

NOTE : I wrote to Sir A Acland's office regarding the joint view. Pl BF to John Coles on 29/9.

I should prefer to decide after my own visit to China. All

PRIME MINISTER

These matters must be viewed in the light of discussions over Hong Kong, not

The Chairman of the Royal Opera House has invited Princess Margaret, as President of the Royal Ballet, to attend the Company's gala performances at Seoul and Peking in May of next year. The Queen would welcome Ministerial advice on this.

Princess Margaret would like to attend the performance in Peking but not the one in Seoul. The Royal Ballet have said that they would finance this trip themselves if the cost cannot be met from official funds.

As you know, the Chinese Government are hoping for a visit by The Queen, and the Royal Visits Committee takes the view that proposals for earlier visits by members of the Royal Family such as Princess Margaret should have lower priority. A visit by the Princess would probably have little political impact, and the FCO are not convinced that the cost of about £35,000 would be justified.

Mr. Pym is, however, strongly in favour of a member of the Royal Family attending the performance in Seoul, primarily because of the centenary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations with Korea next year.

You will see from the attached papers that both Sir Antony Acland and Sir Robert Armstrong feel that Mr. Pym should be advised to support a proposal that Princess Margaret should be asked to attend the Royal Ballet gala opening in Seoul; that there is no objection to her visiting China; and that we should undertake to give financial support for a combined visit to Seoul and Peking. They both feel that a visit to Peking alone would not warrant the expenditure of public money.

Are you content that Mr. Pym should advise the Palace in this way?

Or would you prefer to defer a decision until after your visit to China?

10 August 1982

W Rickett

CONFIDENTIAL



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

Ref: A09260

9th August 1982

Thank you for your letter of 5th August about the visit which it has been proposed Princess Margaret should pay to China to attend the Royal Ballet's Gala Performance in Peking.

I agree with your general approach. I do not think that a visit by Princess Margaret to Peking alone would warrant the expenditure of public funds which official support would entail. If, on the other hand, she were willing to go to Seoul, there is a good case for official support for such a visit; and it would then be reasonable to cover the marginal additional cost of the visit to Peking as well. I agree therefore with the advice which you propose to give to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary as set out in paragraph 6 of your letter

I am sending copies of this letter to Willie Rickett (in Clive Whitmore's absence) and to Philip Moore.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Sir Antony Acland, KCMG, KCVO

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
CABINET OFFICE

5 August 1982

My dear Robert,

PROPOSED VISIT BY PRINCESS MARGARET TO CHINA

1. I attach a copy of a letter from Lord Napier and Ettrick seeking the FCO's views on an invitation by the Chairman of the Royal Opera House, Sir Claus Moser, to Princess Margaret, as President of the Royal Ballet, to attend the Company's Gala performance at Seoul and Peking on 20 or 21 May and a date to be arranged between 25 May and 1 June respectively, during their Far East tour next year. As you will see, Princess Margaret has said that she would like to attend the Gala opening in Peking but not the opening in Seoul.

2. We have known for some time that the Royal Ballet intended to invite Princess Margaret to attend these two occasions.

Passage deleted and closed under FOI

Exemption. Wayland

17 April 2014

We earlier suggested informally to the Royal Ballet that they might wish to invite Princess Margaret to go to Hong Kong instead of Peking since this gala performance is the most important occasion of the tour. Perhaps because they know that she is interested only in visiting China (in which she may have been encouraged by the Chinese Ambassador here), the Royal Ballet have evidently decided instead to maintain their invitation to her to attend the Peking opening. We have been told informally that even if the costs to China by Princess Margaret could not be met from official funds the Royal Ballet would be able to finance the trip themselves.

3. You will remember that the Royal Visits Committee decided at its last meeting that if a State Visit were planned for 1984, proposals for earlier visits by the Duke of Edinburgh, by the Prince and Princess of Wales and by Princess Margaret would all have lower priority. Our concern was whether the likely outlay of official funds involved would justify visits which, with the



exception perhaps of one by the Prince of Wales, would lack any significant political impact. The Dukes of Kent and Gloucester have already visited China, most other European Heads of State have also already been there and the Chinese Government now hope for a visit by The Queen. The cost of a visit by Princess Margaret to Peking alone would be likely to be of the order of £30-35,000.

4. We do not want to make difficulties about this visit. I know that the Ambassador in Peking is concerned that Princess Margaret should recognise that a visit to China will not be particularly comfortable. If she and her party wish to stay at the Residence she should be aware that his facilities there are limited. Of course if she were a guest of the Chinese Government she would probably be offered a guest house which would be comfortable though isolated. Travelling around the country would be somewhat rugged, but the Embassy would do their best to ease the way. Sir Percy Cradock will be glad to welcome Princess Margaret if the visit takes place and I do not think we could find any grounds to object if the Royal Ballet are prepared to pay. My only reservation in that case is that we should wait to give official confirmation that there is no problem over such a visit until after we have seen the results of the Prime Minister's visit in September.

5. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is strongly in favour however of a member of the Royal Family attending the opening in Seoul, primarily in view of the centenary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations with Korea which falls in 1983. Since the Prince of Wales does not wish to include any official visits on his way to Australia next year and since the timing would make it very difficult to add Seoul to Princess Alexandra's trip to Japan, one possible solution would be for Princess Margaret (in spite of her initial reluctance) to visit Seoul before going on to China a few days later. Since the assassination of President Park in 1979 and the eventual accession of President Chun in 1980, the Korean regime, though far from liberal, has shown itself increasingly confident in restoring a measure of democratic government. Relatively few political prisoners now remain in detention, the curfew imposed for many years has been lifted, and some energetic steps have been made to eliminate corruption. Korea is now an increasingly important potential market for both civil and defence sales from the United Kingdom. A Royal visit would have considerable impact. The inclusion of Seoul would also




underline Princess Margaret's role as President of the Royal Ballet and might reduce the risk of the Chinese feeling that her visit to Peking was made primarily as a member of the Royal Family and thus implied a further postponement of the State Visit. There would be no difficulty in our financing a visit to both Seoul and Peking (of the order of £40,000) if Princess Margaret were prepared to undertake a visit to both countries.

6. *Passage deleted and closed under FOI Exemption. (W)Wayland. 17 April 2014*

I should therefore be grateful for your views and those of Clive Whitmore, to whom I am also copying this letter, as to whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should be advised to support a proposal that Princess Margaret be asked to attend the Royal Ballet's Gala opening in Seoul; that there is no objection to her visiting China; and that we should undertake to give financial support for a combined visit to Seoul and Peking (with the implication that the Royal Opera House should finance the visit if it were to China alone). In view of her forthcoming visit to China (on the outcome of which a decision about a visit by The Queen will depend) Clive Whitmore may think that the Prime Minister should be consulted before a reply is sent to Lord Napier.

Antony Acland

Antony Acland

cc Clive Whitmore Esq 
The Rt Hon Sir Philip Moore, KCB KCVO CMG

01 930 3141



IN CONFIDENCE

Hd/PCD for advice + aft
reply pse

15

KENSINGTON PALACE
W. 8

cc HD/FEI

M. J. Farald

PS/PUS

30th June, 1982

Dear Antony.

BA
1/7

I am enclosing a copy of a personal letter to Princess Margaret from Sir Claus Moser dated the 9th June.

Her Royal Highness, after discussion with The Queen, has asked me to write to you personally.

The Princess is able, and indeed is keen, to undertake a visit to the People's Republic of China in May next year, but she would NOT wish to visit any of the other countries mentioned in Sir Claus's letter.

Whilst the main purpose of this proposed visit is in connection with the Royal Ballet, of which Princess Margaret is President, I know that Her Royal Highness would be only too pleased to undertake other engagements within China, if this was thought to be desirable.

I understand that The Queen would give her approval to such a visit, provided that the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has no objection.

Princess Margaret would be grateful for your views.

Yours sincerely,

Richard

Private Secretary to
The Princess Margaret,
Countess of Snowdon

Sir Antony Acland, KCMG KCVO.



Royal Opera House

Covent Garden London WC2E 7QA
Telephone: 01-240 1200
Cables: Amidst London WC2

From Sir Claus Moser KCB *Chairman*

as from

New Court
St. Swithin's Lane
London EC4P 4DU
Telephone 01-626 4356

9th June 1982

Madam,

As I mentioned recently to Your Royal Highness, The Royal Ballet is scheduled to go to the United States and the Far East in the spring of 1983, leaving London on Saturday 16th April and returning on Monday 20th June. They will visit New York; Tokyo and other major cities in Japan; Seoul (Korea); Peking, Shanghai and Canton in China, and finally Hong Kong. A copy of their programme is enclosed.

The Royal Ballet's visit to Seoul, where they will be dancing THE SLEEPING BEAUTY and ROMEO AND JULIET, from 17th May to 21st May, has been planned to coincide with the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Cultural Agreement between Korea and Great Britain. I am writing to ask whether Your Royal Highness might consent to attend a Gala Performance of THE SLEEPING BEAUTY on Friday 20th May or a performance of ROMEO AND JULIET on Saturday 21st May. Your presence would be greatly welcomed by the Korean Government, and - I need hardly say - by all of us.

I have an even more ambitious question to ask, namely whether Your Royal Highness would consider then travelling on to Peking to attend a Gala Performance on a date convenient to yourself between Wednesday 25th May and Wednesday 1st June. The opening performance of THE SLEEPING BEAUTY falls on Wednesday 25th May.

If, as we all very much hope, you would honour us with your presence on these two occasions, we will go ahead with the detailed arrangements. Pat Spooner has already been in touch with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has talked to the Hon. Eustace Gibbs, Head of the Protocol and Conference Department, who has expressed keen interest in what is proposed. I should add that we hope to raise some money for the Development Appeal on these occasions, especially

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in Seoul, and I need hardly say how wonderful it would be from this point of view also if you were to agree to be present.

Your Royal Highness has always been such a marvellous supporter of everything the Royal Ballet does, and I am conscious that I am asking for a major travel and time commitment. I do so because I know how much your presence would mean to all of us from Covent Garden and to the large audiences we will be playing to.

I have the honour to be, Madam,
Your Royal Highness' humble and obedient servant,

Claus Moser

HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon
Kensington Palace
LONDON W8

1983 ROYAL BALLET TOUR TO USA AND FAR EAST

<u>Date</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Performance</u>
Saturday 16 April	Depart London		
Monday 18-23 April		New York - Metropolitan	Two Triple Bills (8 performances)
Sunday 24 April	USA to Tokyo by air		
Monday 25 April	Arrive Tokyo		
Tuesday 26 April		Day Off	
Wednesday 27 April	Rehearse		
Thursday 28 April		Tokyo Bunka Kaikan	MANON (1)
Friday 29 April		Tokyo Bunka Kaikan	MANON (2 & 3)
Saturday 30 April		"	LAC (1)
Sunday 1 May		"	LAC (2) Matinee
Monday 2 May		"	LAC (3)
Tuesday 3 May		Day Off	
Wednesday 4 May		Tokyo Bunka Kaikan	PATINEURS/MONTH/CONCERT (1)
Thursday 5 May		"	PATINEURS/MONTH/CONCERT (2 & 3)
Friday 6 May	Osaka by air		
Saturday 7 May		Osaka Festival Hall	MANON (4)
Sunday 8 May		"	LAC (4 & 5)
Monday 9 May		Day Off	
Tuesday 10 May	Train Osaka/Nagoya/Usaka	Nagoya Shimin Kaikan	LAC (6)
Wednesday 11 May	Bus Osaka/Kobe/Usaka	Kobe Bunka Hall	PATINEURS/MONTH/CONCERT (4)
Thursday 12 May	Train Hiroshima	Hiroshima Yubin Chukin Hall	LAC (7)
Friday 13 May	Train Fukuoka	Fukouka Sun Palace	MANON (5)
Saturday 14 May		"	LAC (8)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Performance</u>
Sunday	15 May	Fukuoka to Korea by air	
Monday	16 May	Day Off	
Tuesday	17 May	Seoul Cultural Centre	SLEEPING BEAUTY (1)
Wednesday	18 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (2 & 3)
Thursday	19 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (4)
Friday	20 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (5)
Saturday	21 May <i>Princen m?</i>	"	ROMEO AND JULIET (1 & 2)
Sunday	22 May	Tokyo to Peking (Beijing) by air	
Monday	23 May	Day Off	
Tuesday	24 May	Rehearse	
Wednesday	25 May <i>Princen m?</i>	Peking Tianquiao Theatre	SLEEPING BEAUTY (1)
Thursday	26 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (2 & 3)
Friday	27 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (4)
Saturday	28 May	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (5 & 6)
Sunday	29 May	Day Off	
Monday	30 May	Peking Tianquiao Theatre	PATINEURS/MONTH/BAYADERE (1)
Tuesday	31 May	"	PATINEURS/MONTH/BAYADERE (2)
Wednesday	1 June	"	PATINEURS/MONTH/BAYADERE (3 & 4)
Thursday	2 June	Peking to Shanghai by air	
Friday	3 June	Day Off	
Saturday	4 June	Shanghai Municipal Government Hall	SLEEPING BEAUTY (7 & 8)
Sunday	5 June		SLEEPING BEAUTY (9 & 10)
Monday	6 June	"	PATINEURS/MONTH/BAYADERE (5)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Performance</u>
Tuesday	7 June	Shanghai Municipal Government Hall	BATINEURS/MONTH/BAYADERE (6)
Wednesday	8 June	Shanghai to Canton by air (Guangzhou)	
Thursday	9 June	Canton Friendship Theatre	SLEEPING BEAUTY (11)
Friday	10 June	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (12)
Saturday	11 June	"	SLEEPING BEAUTY (13 & 14)
Sunday	12 June	Canton to Hong Kong by train	
Monday	13 June	Day Off	
Tuesday	14 June	Hong Kong Hung Hom Stadium	ROMEO AND JULIET (1)
Wednesday	15 June	"	ROMEO AND JULIET (2 & 3)
Thursday	16 June	"	ROMEO AND JULIET (4)
Friday	17 June	"	SWAN LAKE (1)
Saturday	18 June	"	SWAN LAKE (2 & 3)
Sunday	19 June	Return to London	
Monday	20 June	Arrive London	

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