MT

Confidential Filing

Visit of the King and Queen of Tonga.

TONGA

November 1979

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FILE

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 March, 1984

Thank you for your letter to John Coles of 24 February. I enclose herewith a copy of the letter from the King of Tonga. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, I shall assume that no further action is necessary.

(David Barclay)

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

(4)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 February 1984

Prime Minister.

27.

Dear John,

Correspondence for the Prime Minister

We have been asked by the Tongan High Commission to pass on the enclosed (sealed) letter from the King of Tonga to the Prime Minister.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

SUBJECT
cc Master
Ops.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T32AA/84

The Royal Palace,
Nuku'alofa,
TONGA.

13 February, 1984.

My Dear Prime Minister,

T217/83

May I thank you for your letter concerning stabilized soil. It was waiting for my recent return after absence in New Zealand on medical advice.

We are carefully checking with Saudi Arabia and Spain where previous work has been reported as well as with I.C.A.O. in Montreal on use for jet airfields because this body has recently upgraded our airfield to take 707s and we, of course, need their approval for further plans to up-grade for 747 operations.

We hope that all is well with you and your family.

With all good wishes,
Taufa'ahau Tupou R.

THE KING OF TONGA

Right Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of England,
No. 10 Downing St.
LONDON.

FILE

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 December 1983

King of Tonga

Thank you for the advice contained in your letter of 13 December about a letter from the Prime Minister to the King of Tonga about Stabisoil.

I now enclose a letter which the Prime Minister has signed and I should be grateful if you would arrange for its delivery.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to the Chief Scientific Adviser.

A. J. COLES

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CT

cc MASTER OPS

FILE

BM

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T 217/83

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 December 1983

Your Majesty,

During your visit here, which we all recall with so much pleasure, you mentioned to me a product called Stabisoil. I promised that we would investigate it.

I have now received some expert advice on the stabilisation of sand and soil by the addition of various chemicals. Much of the work is based on the well-known natural phenomenon in 'salt flats' where the gradual percolation of various salts from a water table just below the surface of the flats produces a hard and durable surface. Other methods of stabilisation depend on the use of a cement-based grouting compound.

The product which Your Majesty showed me does not appear to fall into either of these categories since one of the major constituents is an organic chemical. I am advised that stabilisation using this type of compound is liable to degradation from prolonged sunlight and damage from surface water. There appears to be no published technical literature on the Stabisoil product so it has not been possible for our experts to check whether these problems have been overcome by some novel addition.

I am told that general experience with the use of chemicals to stabilise soil and sand has been disappointing. While there is

/ always scope

dh

always scope for successful innovation, Your Majesty may wish to get good independent technical advice on this new development before making a substantial financial commitment.

With respectful good wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, GCMG, GCVO, KBE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 December, 1983

Dear John,

Ml. the letter at Chap.
A.J.C. 14/12.

Visit of the King of Tonga: Stabisoil

Thank you for your letter of 8 December, with which you enclosed a draft letter from the Prime Minister to the King of Tonga about the product 'Stabisoil'.

We see no objection to advising the King to proceed with some caution as suggested in the Chief Scientific Adviser's letter. However, the King may have expected HMG to offer him independent technical advice, and may therefore be disappointed by the terms of the concluding paragraph.

If the King does react in this way and indicates that he would like further assistance from us over the provision of independent technical advice we could explore the possibilities of providing it under the existing programme for technical cooperation with Tonga. But this might require the Tongans to give up other projects which they have put forward.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Tonga Nov 79 Visits by King

CONFIDENTIAL

File 84

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 December, 1983

Visit of the King of Tonga: Stabisoil

Would you please refer to my letter of 26 October about the visit of the King of Tonga.

The Prime Minister asked me to follow up the King's reference to the product called Stabisoil.

I now enclose a copy of a minute of 7 December by the Chief Scientific Adviser and the associated documents.

I believe that the Prime Minister may well wish to write to the King of Tonga broadly in the terms proposed by Dr. Nicholson. But I should be grateful for confirmation that you see no objection to this and for any observations you may have on the drafing of the letter. I do not think we should delay this matter further and should therefore be grateful for your reply by Tuesday, 13 December.

BF

A. J. COLES

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

CONFIDENTIAL

W.0821 CONFIDENTIAL 7 December 1983

TO: MR COLES, 10 Downing St.

FROM: DR NICHOLSON

STABISOIL - KING OF TONGA

I have now received the report on Stabisoil from the Building Research Establishment and a covering letter from the Chief Scientist of the Department of Environment, both of which I attach.

2. I am inclined to agree with the conclusion of Dr Holdgate that the Tongans are being taken for a ride but one cannot of course be sure and the limited (perhaps deliberately so) samples of material make it difficult to come to certain conclusicns.

3. I have therefore drafted a fairly cautious response for the Prime Minister to send the King of Tonga and I have not picked up Holdgate's suggestion that we volunteer the services of ODA. However I am copying this correspondence to ODA so they can take any action which seems appropriate using their normal channels of communications.

4. I assume that no further action is required with De La Rue which, in any case, was your contact rather than mine.

PBN

cc: Dr Holdgate, DoE
Mr Cunningham, ODA

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE KING OF TONGA

During your visit here, which we all recall with so much pleasure, you mentioned to me a product called Stabisoil. I promised that we would investigate it.

I have now received some expert advice on the stabilisation of sand and soil by the addition of various chemicals. Much of the work is based on the well-known natural phenomenon in 'salt flats' where the gradual percolation of various salts from a water table just below the surface of the flats produces a hard and durable surface. Other methods of stabilisation depend on the use of a cement-based grouting compound.

The product ~~you~~ which Your Majesty showed me does not appear to fall into either of these categories since one of the major constituents is an organic chemical. I am advised that stabilisation using this type of compound is liable to degradation from prolonged sunlight and damage from surface water. There appears to be no published technical literature on the Stabisoil product so it has not been possible for us experts to check whether these problems have been overcome by some novel addition.

I am told that general experience with the use of chemicals to stabilise soil and sand has been disappointing, ~~and~~ While there is always scope for successful innovation, ~~I am sure you will~~ Your Majesty may wish to get good independent technical advice on this new development before making a substantial financial commitment.

MR 14/12.

Department of the Environment and
Department of Transport
2 Marsham Street London SW1P 3EB

01-212 7390

Chief Scientist and Deputy Secretary
Dr M W Holdgate CB

30 November 1983

Dr R Nicholson
Cabinet Office
Whitehall
SW1

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Robin

STABISOIL

I have seen the BRE report of 23 November on this subject.

You will want to consider handling. As I read the situation, it looks very much as if the Kingdom of Tonga is being taken for a ride by a bunch of crooks. How we get a warning out to them that they ought not to trust this product, at least without very exacting field trials, I do not know. Obviously we would not want to lay ourselves open to action in the courts on the basis of the kind of warning that the BRE report contains, but it does look very much as if the product does not come from a well known firm, that its provenance is not exactly well documented, and that is performance under field situations is likely to be disappointing (to say the least!). It may be that a link between the offices of the Prime Ministers could be the most convenient way of warning the Tongans to be careful, and it is possible that ODA (who have an association with BRE) might volunteer to look into the optimum way of carrying out soil stabilisation in Tonga as part of whatever aid we provide in that direction?

Best wishes

Yours ever,
Martin

M W HOLDGATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr R B Nicholson
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AS

SAMPLE OF PRODUCT CALLED STABISOIL

In reponse to Val Meadows minute of 9 November (W0 739) I attach a short report of our investigations.

J B MENZIES
Building Research Establishment

23 November 1983

cc Dr Holdgate
Dr Watson

CONFIDENTIAL

INVESTIGATION OF SAMPLE OF PRODUCT CALLED STABISOIL

1. A small sample of the product STABISOIL, a clear colourless fluid, together with four sample pellets of stabilsed soil, which had recently been handed to the Prime Minister's Private Office by the King of Tonga's suite, were delivered to the Building Research Establishment (BRE) on 10 November for investigation. The product was reported to be a soil stabiliser.

SEARCH FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION ABOUT STABISOIL

2. The product was unknown to BRE. A search of the International Road Research Data Base failed to reveal any reference to it in the technical/scientific literature and the Swiss Embassy in London found no reference to the firm Stabisoil Ltd in the Swiss Trade Directory nor in the telephone directory of the town of Brig where the firm's factory was reported to be located.

3. The following manufacturers and suppliers of chemical grouting and soil stabilisation compounds, contractors specialising in geotechnical processes and other organisations were contacted for information:

Rhone - Poulenc (UK)
ICI (Petrochemicals Division) Ltd
Cementation Piling Foundations Ltd
Foundation Engineering Ltd
Foraky Ltd
GKN Keller Foundations
Colcrete Ltd
Wimpey Laboratories
Schweizerischer Technika Verband, Zurich
Engineering Intelligence, Department of Transport
Transport and Road Research Laboratory
Overseas Development Adminstration

4. Apart from ICI, none of the representatives of these organisations had any technical data on 'Stabisoil' and only the last two had heard of it and that only as a result of the Swiss sales efforts in Tonga. ICI were, however, able to locate a reference to Stabisoil in the form of a report dated 26 January 1981 produced by the Geotechnical Institute (not further identified). A study of the report revealed little useful technical information. The chemical composition of the product was not given. The product was stated to act as a catalyst but the explanation of its function was not understood.

5. An article in the Tonga Chronicle (2 September 1983) was located which discussed the product. It adds little technically to the report but it does state that the Stabisoil has been used for ten years in airport construction and road making in Europe, Asia and Africa.

EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES

6. Examinations of the small fluid sample (acidity, action of heat, infra-red spectrometry, ion chromatography, flame emission, and atomic absorption spectrometry) revealed Stabisoil to be an aqueous acetic acid solution of an organic material, possibly pectin. It also contains small amounts (approx. 0.2-0.3%) of fluoride, sulphate and sodium.

7. The high acidity and absence of aluminium and silicon indicates Stabisoil is not one of the usual sodium silicate/aluminate soil stabilisers which are highly alkaline.

8. A stabilised soil sample-made by mixing Stabisoil with a quartz sand, lightly compacting and leaving overnight - was quite hard in compression but when dropped into water disintegrated completely into a layer of sand.

9. The sample pellets of stabilised soil were quite hard and resistant to rubbing. However, on wetting, their surfaces became soft and very friable.

10. If Stabisoil is based on a natural product like pectin it would be unlikely to be durable when subjected to UV light and biological action.

CONCLUSIONS

11. There have been several 'miracle' soil stabilising chemicals marketed in the last decade or so and all have proved disappointing and have failed to live up to their manufacturers claims. This history and the fact that Stabisoil is virtually unknown amongst UK and some European organisations concerned with stabilisation suggests caution should be exercised before any commitments to purchase or use the material are entered into.

12. The apparent inability of Stabisoil to stabilise samples except in the absence of water and probably also sunlight and biological action supports the above conclusion. An evaluation involving evidence from technical literature, larger samples and field trials would be needed to determine the value of this product as a long-term stabiliser.

BUILDING RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT
Department of the Environment

22 November 1983

W.0766

17 November 1983

MR J D COLES, 10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

A.J.C. 17/11

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE KING OF TONGA

After receiving your minute of 4 November and the samples from the King of Tonga, I discussed the matter with Dr Holdgate, Chief Scientist at the Department of the Environment and then sent the material to the Building Research Establishment. On receipt of your minute of 15 November I spoke to the Building Research Establishment to see whether they had completed their investigation.

They have had some difficulty in tracing the Company, Stabisoil, in Switzerland and are also having some difficulty with the clear fluid which was included in the samples submitted by the King of Tonga. However they expect to be able to report to me on their findings early next week.

I did not disclose to the BRE that you had also received some information from the De La Rue Company on this matter, since I felt that this would only serve to confuse the issue. At this stage it seems unlikely that the process referred to by the King of Tonga is a cement grouting process since the clear fluid we were given is obviously in no way associated with cement. However it would be premature for me to comment further on the De La Rue Company information until I have received the report from BRE.

RBN

ROBIN B NICHOLSON
Chief Scientific Adviser

Tonga NOV 79
Visits by King & Queen

File No

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

DR. NICHOLSON
CABINET OFFICE

In my minute to you of 4 November, I brought to your attention the remarks of the King of Tonga during his recent visit about a chemical substance which, according to the King, could be used to turn sandy areas into landing areas for aircraft.

I now attach a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the De La Rue Company commenting on this matter.

As stated in my previous minute, the Prime Minister would be most grateful for any advice which you can offer on the usefulness of the substance referred to by the King of Tonga.

A. J. COLES

15 November 1983

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 November 1983

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 9 November summarising the information which your scientists and engineers have obtained about the substance for solidifying sandy areas which was mentioned by the King of Tonga during his recent visit to London.

Mrs. Thatcher is most grateful for this information.

A. J. COLES

Sir Arthur Norman, K.B.E., D.F.C.

Garden Rooms
CF
Press Office
Political
Joy
NT

Tessa

Sorry not to be able to help - has John Coles been asked if he knows anything about it?

Tom

14.11.83

John - This has been around the office but, alas, we cannot trace the Chairman's letter of 26th October. Do you recall it pl? Kay
15/11

Ostai

The Foreign Minister(s)
talked to me at
lunch but I forget
in reference to what

S 12/11

Jon

This means nothing to Amanda or me, but I just wondered if anything had come via D.T.? Could you ask him and then, if "no", let me have it back to ask Michael?

Thanks

Jessica

CF?
No.
GR No.

The De La Rue Company p.l.c.

AGN/JM.

Chairman's Office
Sir Arthur Norman KBE DFC

Registered Office
De La Rue House 3/5 Burlington Gardens
London W1A 1DL

Telephone 01-734 8020
Telex 24977
Cables Delinsul London W1
Registered Number 58025 England

9th November, 1983.

The Right Hon. The Prime Minister,
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, P.C., M.P.,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

RIO

Dear Prime Minister

With further reference to my letter of October 26th concerning a statement made to you by His Majesty The King of Tonga, on his recent visit, I attach a brief summary of the information which our scientists and engineers have been able to obtain.

Yours sincerely

Chairman.

Enclosure.

THE DE LA RUE COMPANY, p.l.c.

SOLIDIFYING TONGAN BEACHES.

1. A University Lecturer in soil stabilisation makes the point that in many areas covered by sand there is often a water table only just below the surface and this causes salts to rise to the surface thereby solidifying the sub-surface area to a considerable degree. An example is the salt flats in Utah used for motor racing. There are many other surfaces in the USA and in Australia on which an aircraft could land without any additional treatment. There are also many areas where the sub-surface is rather solid with only a small depth of loose sand on top. Areas just above the sea water line are often like this. This contact had not, however, heard of any process which could be the basis of that described by H.M. the King of Tonga.

2. In attempting to trace the chemical substance that is being used in Tonga, to turn strips of ordinary sandy beaches into Landing areas for aircraft - the type of aircraft being unspecified - after extensive enquiries we spoke with an authority at the Cement and Concrete Association who at first disclaimed all knowledge of such a chemical and then stated that he thought it was possible to use cement grout. This is mixed into the sand in position on the beach. Then water is added, and the end result is a stable surface capable of supporting an aircraft.

For confirmation, this same source suggested that we rang a contact at ECT, European Container ... in Holland. Apparently this process is used quite a lot in the Delft area where they dredge sand and then harden it in the way described above. This man confirmed the process and said they can then use the land for industrial purposes. The maximum depth of the surface is 50 cm. and the mixer machines they use are available in Continental Europe, the U.S.A. and Australia. They are not particularly large machines, but he nevertheless thought it was unlikely that they would have them in Fiji or Tonga. If we want further information about the machines, the person to ask is :-

Mr. Hank van de Loes,
Larenco Netherlands B.V.
Tel. 010 31 10 85 649410.

This company does have an International Division for export.

9.11.83.

AGN/JM.

File

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

DR. NICHOLSON

CABINET OFFICE

TONGA

I attach a copy of a letter which I wrote on 26 October reporting the contents of a conversation between the Prime Minister and the King of Tonga.

May I draw your attention to the passage on page 2 about a Swiss company called Stabisoil and that company's product which, according to the King, was potentially very significant.

You will note that the Prime Minister said that we would ourselves investigate the effectiveness of the product. I imagine that the Department of Trade and Industry and the MOD are looking into this as a result of my letter.

BF

The Prime Minister has now asked me to send to you a sample which was handed to us by the King's suite. I am arranging for this to reach you by separate means, and I should be grateful if you could in due course let the Prime Minister have your observations.

4 November 1983

SUBJECT
c. Master

CONFIDENTIAL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 October, 1983.

Tonga

The King of Tonga visited No.10 today for talks followed by lunch.

The Prime Minister held a tete-a-tete conversation with the King, with no notetakers present, from 1215 until about 1230.

The meeting was then joined by Baron Vaea, Mr. Tupou, Lady Young and Mr. Coleman.

The Prime Minister explained that during her tete-a-tete conversation she had described to the King the British attitude towards the US intervention in Grenada. We felt that intervention in an independent country could only be justified in very exceptional circumstances, but President Reagan had been met with a request from several Caribbean countries to restore democracy in Grenada. The Americans and the Caribbean countries concerned saw the issue from a perspective different to our own. Now that the intervention had occurred, our hope was that democracy would quickly be restored and that it would endure.

The Prime Minister had also explained to the King during her tete-a-tete conversation that our talks with the Chinese with regard to Hong Kong were now proceeding more satisfactorily.

The conversation then turned to the economic situation in Tonga. The King explained that there was now a considerable amount of light industry. In the last few months industrial exports had exceeded agricultural exports. In response to a question from the Prime Minister, he said that the policy of guaranteeing every citizen of Tonga a certain amount of land was proving more difficult to implement with a growing population. Nevertheless, some 30% of the population worked overseas. In response to a further question from the Prime Minister, the King confirmed that the damage caused by the 1982 hurricane was still taking its toll. In particular, it would take time to replace the trees that had been harmed.

The King said that when he had visited Hong Kong recently he had discovered a number of industrialists who were considering moving

/ some

some of their interests to Tonga. Quartz watches were now being assembled in Tonga, using parts imported from Europe. Another new industry was the manufacture of small excavators for the German and Swiss markets.

During his visit to the continent, he was due to see a Swiss factory which was producing a chemical which could be injected into sand and turn it in a very short time into a rock-like substance on which aircraft could land. The product had already been used with some success in Saudi Arabia.

The company concerned was called Stabisoil. The Prime Minister expressed considerable interest in this product, and said that we would ourselves investigate its effectiveness.

The conversation ended at 1300.

I am copying this letter to Callum McCarthy (Department of Trade and Industry) and Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER

KING OF TONGA

I attach the briefs and some notes for the toast lunch.

You will see from the briefs that he was taken ill on his arrival here on 14 October with a possible blood clot in the leg. We shall need to take account of this throughout.

You should leave No. 10 at 1150 for the FCO Quadrangle becuase the Queen of Tonga is arriving at 1155. We shall not know until tomorrow whether the King will be fit enough to walk round the Guard of Honour.

When he comes to No. 10 he will need to take the lift upstairs. He has asked for a few minutes' private conversation with you. I suggest that you go straight to the White Room.

I will keep in the Blue Room until you are ready the four participants in the talks who are:

Baron Vaea	Minister of Labour, Commerce and Industries
Mr. Tupou	High Commissioner for Tonga
Lady Young	
Mr. Coleman	Our High Commissioner

The King will not be able to stand in a receiving line for the lunch guests. He could be seated on a sofa in the Blue Room.

We are told that he is bringing you a present. We have wrapped a Crown Worcester Bowl for you to give him in return.

A.J.C.

25 October 1983

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 October 1983

Dear John,

Talks with HM The King and Lunch in Honour of Their Majesties The King and Queen of Tonga: 26 October

I enclose briefing for the Prime Minister's talks with the King, personality notes and notes for the toast at lunch.

The King has asked for a few minutes private conversation with the Prime Minister before being joined by two members of his suite, Baron Vaea, Minister of Labour, Commerce and Industries, and Mr Tupou, High Commissioner for Tonga. Lady Young and Mr Bernard Coleman, our High Commissioner to Tonga, will support the Prime Minister.

Apart from expressing an interest in learning the Prime Minister's views on the future of Hong Kong, the King has not indicated any specific areas for discussion. Sentiment is the strong component in our relations with Tonga. There is not much to tell the King about matters of substance and we see advantage in steering the conversation to general themes. But the fact that Tonga has relations with Taiwan means that there is some risk that points made on Hong Kong may subsequently find their way to Taiwanese ears.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CALL BY KING OF TONGA, 26 OCTOBER, 1215 PM

Points to Make

Private Talks

1. Great pleasure that Tongan Head of State is in London as the Guest of the British Government [previous visits have all been private].

2. The programme. Glad that you have been able to keep the main events in place in the face of any advice received from doctors. [The King was taken ill on his arrival here from Hong Kong on 14 October: diagnosis, a possible blood clot in the leg.]

3. Trust that your daughter is in good health [she is expecting a baby in the first week in November, lives in London as the wife of the Counsellor of the Tongan High Commission].

Plenary Talks

4. Value a longstanding friendship with Tonga. Gift of Spitfires during World War II. Robust support during Falklands Conflict - expulsion of Argentine passport holders.

5. In a changing world we remain anxious to maintain links with our friends.

6. We are glad to contribute to the work of the South Pacific Commission. Mr Ray Whitney, Parliamentary Under Secretary, at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, went to the Commission's annual meeting in the Pacific earlier this month. We believe that the Commission's work contributes to stability and understanding in the South Pacific. These are essential to its development.

7. Over last three years we have contributed 73 million pounds in aid to the South Pacific, 23 million pounds this year. These are substantial sums given the small population of the islands.

8. In Tonga we maintain a programme of technical co-operation which we believe you value. We plan to continue this in the years ahead.

9. We could strengthen our links in other ways, for instance through education and the granting of scholarships.

/10.

10. Welcome your ideas about ways in which Tonga will develop. Like to hear how far the economy has recovered since the hurricane of 1982 to which we were glad to contribute relief

(If Raised) Hong Kong

(i) Sino-British talks through diplomatic channels agreed September 1982. Meetings held Peking. Common aim of maintaining Hong Kong's stability and prosperity.

(ii) Second phase of talks began July. Five rounds have taken place. Meeting 19/20 October useful and constructive. Next meeting 14/15 November. Chinese delegation led by Vice Foreign Minister Yao Guang, British by HMA Peking. Governor of Hong Kong participating as appropriate on British side.

(iii) Content of talks confidential.

(iv) We aim to seek settlement acceptable to Britain, China, and people of Hong Kong. Their views taken fully into account.

(v) Chinese propaganda floats Hong Kong as Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, with considerable autonomy and with lifestyle basically unchanged.

(vi) Most Hong Kong people sceptical of SAR idea. Evidence suggests details rudimentary and basis for confidence not grasped. Investors need effective guarantees against Chinese interference. This at present provided by British administration.

(vii) Central issue is to devise package inspiring confidence. Given agreed common aim, confident this possible.

(viii) Meanwhile important nothing said or done to damage confidence. This very fragile.

(ix) Contrary to apparent Chinese beliefs, British Government obtains from Hong Kong revenue only of normal trading partner.

/Sovereignty

Sovereignty

(x) Chinese and British positions well known. We fully realise importance of sovereignty to China. We are not inflexible. Willing to consider any solution acceptable to Britain, China and Hong Kong.

Confidence in Hong Kong

(xi) Underlying state of Hong Kong's economy generally healthy. Cumulative effect of Chinese propaganda campaign is main reason for decline of Hong Kong dollar and of stock market. There is lack of confidence in China's SAR plan for Hong Kong. But Chinese propaganda has eased off at present. Recent measures taken by Hong Kong Government have helped to stabilise the dollar.

KINGDOM OF TONGA

Essential Facts

Population : 100,000 (Polynesian)

GDP : US$520 (1980) per head

Area : 270 sq miles (comprising about 150 islands in three main groups scattered over some 150,000 square miles of the Southwest Pacific)

Head of State : King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV GCMG GCVO KBE

Political

1. Tonga, in the King's own words "re-entered the Comity of nations" in 1970. It was effectively a British protectorate from 1878 to 1970. It is a constitutional monarchy with a unicameral parliament of ten Cabinet Ministers, 7 Nobles and 7 commoners. The situation is tranquil but Tonga faces growing social and economic pressures. Population growth has produced a land shortage and a consequent inability to honour the constitutional land entitlement (8¼ acres) to many islanders. The domination of politics by the monarchy and dynastic families could in time cause some friction, especially in the context of rising expectations fostered by better education and contact with more "modern" societies but there have so far been no overt signs of general discontent Living standards, however, have stagnated for several years and these factors have produced frustration amongst some of Tonga's more ambitious inhabitants and they have gone to better paid jobs abroad. The King is reluctant to recognise the need for modernisation which may have to await the accession of the Crown Prince (at present Foreign Minister).

Foreign Policy

2. London is Tonga's only diplomatic post, a demonstration of the importance Tonga attaches to the UK. Much of the post's work is concerned with Community matters, the Lome Convention and Stabex. Tonga rarely shows interest in matters outside the South Pacific region except perhaps where the King scents prospects of aid. Tonga belongs to the South Pacific Forum and attends the South Pacific Conference. She attended the 1981 Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting and will be represented by the Prime Minister (King's brother) and Foreign Minister (Crown Prince) in Delhi this year. She is not a member of the UN. She maintains relations with Taiwan.

/3.

3. Bilateral relations are excellent. Tongans and the King have a very high regard for Britain and the British Royal Family. Tonga gave us extremely robust support during the Falklands conflict, even to the extent of expelling Argentine passport holders.

Economy

4. Coconut products and tropical fruits and vegetables account for over 85% of Tonga's exports but small industries are beginning to make an increasing contribution. The 30,000 Tongans living and working abroad contribute to some extent to the economy. The hurricane in March 1982 caused extensive damage and the economy is still recovering from its effects.

Trade

5. Increased importation of manufactures has caused a deterioration in the balance of trade. Imports from Britain in 1982 totalled £764,000 while trade in the reverse direction was worth only £38,000.

UK Aid

6. Earlier capital aid provisions, consisting of development loans in 1972, 1973 and 1977 totalling £2,730,000 have now been fully utilised. We gave £100,000 disaster relief after the hurricane, as well as a sea-truck (King has shown considerable interest in this vessel) to replace a vessel used for inter-island transport. This vessel was delivered just before the King's departure for the UK. The Tongans accept that, while we continue to give technical assistance on the following scale:

1983/4	1984/5	1985/6	1986/7
£283,000	283,000	241,000	255,000

we will not give further capital aid. Our Technical Co-operation programme consists mainly of the provision of senior personnel to fill key posts in the Administration.

7. The Tongans asked in 1980 for the Development loans to be rescheduled by means of Retrospective Terms Adjustment (TRA). The request was not granted and they did not press the point; they have however noted the waiving of the repayment terms of the Mozambique loans.

South Pacific Department
October 1983

KING OF TONGA'S VISIT TO LONDON

BRIEFING FOR FREEDOM YACHTS INTERNATIONAL LTD AND THEIR PROPOSED BUSINESS IN TONGA

ECGD has been approached by the Cooperative Bank (Commercial) Ltd to provide basic credit insurance cover and support for fixed rate finance in relation to the supply by Freedom Yachts International Ltd of two yachts for Tonga Maritime Projects Ltd.

The business, valued at approximately £600,000 with repayments spread over a period of 5 years and guaranteed by the Tonga Ministry of Finance, is acceptable in principle with normal supplier credit facilities for Post Shipment Finance.

The buyer has been granted a licence to fish in Tonga waters and in view of the prospect of vital foreign exchange being earned the venture is receiving the full support of the Tonga Government.

Further orders are anticipated and the subject is likely to be raised when the King of Tonga visits Mrs Thatcher.

There is every prospect that the BBC may make a programme stressing the importance of the project to the boat building industry.

FREEDOM YACHTS INTERNATIONAL LTD

BUSINESS WITH TONGA

LINE TO TAKE

1 The full range of ECGD facilities is available for this market but the amount of cover that can be made available to support UK business with Tonga is limited. However, this does not preclude consideration of future business once the current amount of available cover is exhausted.

BACKGROUND (RESTRICTED)

1 Short Term cover (ie payments up to 180 days) is available without restriction. Outside the Short Term field cover is available within a Reviewable Market Limit of £2m. There are currently no commitments outside the Short Term field.

2 a The Department has been approached by Co-Operative Bank (Commercial) Ltd to provide basic credit insurance cover and support for fixed rate finance in relation to the supply by Freedom Yachts International Ltd of two yachts for Maritime Projects Ltd.

b This business, which is valued at approximately £600,000 with repayments spread over a period of five years and guaranteed by the Tonga Ministry of Finance, is acceptable in principle.

c The buyer has been granted a licence to fish in Tonga waters and in view of the prospect of vital foreign exchange being earned, the venture is receiving the full support of the Tonga Government.

ECGD

25 October 1983

HIS MAJESTY KING TAUFA'AHAU TUPOU IV, GCMG GCVO KBE

Born 4 July 1918. Eldest son of Her late Majesty Queen Salote Tupou III and Prince Consort Tungi.

Educated Tupou College, Tonga, Newington College, Sydney, Wesley College, Sydney and Sydney University where he obtained BA and LIB Degrees.

Succeeded to The Throne 1965. Crowned 1967. Married (1947) Halaevalu Mata'aho, eldest daughter of the late Hon'Ahome'e, a Noble of Vava'u. 3 sons and 1 daughter.

CBE (1951), KBE (1958), KCMG (1968), GCVO (1970), GCMG (1977).

Minister for Health and Education 1943-50. Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Education and Works 1950-65. First Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific 1971-74.

Since 1970 when Tonga re-entered the Comity of Nations, His Majesty has made State Visits to India, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Malaysia, Guam, Taiwan, Libya, New Zealand, Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany. He attended the Wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales in London in 1981. In the '70's, when his two younger sons attended The Leys School, Cambridge, he visited the UK privately every year except 1977.

His Majesty is extremely well disposed towards Britain and as King has received Her Majesty The Queen twice in Tonga, in 1970 and 1977.

His Majesty presides in person over the Privy Council, which consists of the Sovereign, the Cabinet and the Governors of Vava'u and Ha'apai. In the absence of a political party system, Ministers hold office at the King's pleasure; his influence is therefore paramount. The King is proud of the constitutional advances which have been freely granted by the Crown to the people of Tonga, and he sees himself continuing this role.

/As

As Crown Prince and Premier, the King travelled widely and was particularly interested in developing contacts with the United States and Japan.

The King has an active and enquiring mind and reads widely. He is constantly searching for ways to improve the economic position of the Kingdom.

The King is a man of great personal charm. He is huge physically, being 6' 4" in height and at one time his weight was reputed to be 32 stone. An attack of high blood pressure in 1976 caused the Doctors to put him on a strict diet, and his weight is now said to be 23 stone.

The King is a devoted family man.

South Pacific Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
October 1983

HER MAJESTY QUEEN HALAEVALU MATA'AHO

Born 29 May 1926. Eldest daughter of the late 'Ahome'e, a Noble of Vava'u.

Educated at the local Convent and the Diocesan School in Auckland.

Married (1947) Crown Prince Tupouto'a-Tungi. 3 sons, 1 daughter.

Her Majesty has accompanied the King on State visits to New Zealand, India, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Libya, Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany. Together with the King she attended the Wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales in London in July 1981. When their two younger sons were at school in England, the Queen made annual private visits to the UK either with the King or on her own. She is very well disposed towards Britain.

The Queen is Patron of the Tongan Red Cross and the Tonga Girl Guides and takes a lively interest in their activities. She is also a successful market gardener and poultry breeder. She is a keen church woman and is very musical. She is also an excellent cook. She enjoys attending small tea or coffee parties and occasionally holds large tea parties at the Palace. She is devoted to her children, particularly her only daughter and grandchildren.

Her Majesty has 3 sisters, one of whom is married to the present Tongan High Commissioner. Her only brother died in 1981.

HON VAEA (BARON VAEA OF HOUMA)

Minister of Labour, Commerce and Industries.

Born 1921.

Educated Wesley College, New Zealand.

Served with the RNZAF during World War II, flying Catalinas in the Solomons, 1942-5. Joined the Civil Service 1945. Aide-de-Camp to the late Queen Salote; accompanied her to the Coronation in 1953. Governor of Vava'u 1960. Attended a Course on Government and Development at Oxford in 1967, followed by an air-worthiness course when he requalified as a pilot. Appointed Tonga's Commissioner in London 1969, he became first High Commissioner on 4 June 1970 and served there till October 1972. On return to Tonga he was appointed Minister of Labour, Commerce and Industries in 1973. He accompanied the King on his visits to Japan (1978) and Libya, New Zealand, Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany (1979). He is very well disposed towards Britain.

Vaea is a Noble title inherited through his mother. His father, Vilai Tupou, was an illegitimate son of King George Tupou II, and half brother to the late Queen Salote Tupou III, whose ADC he was for many years. He is thus a cousin of the King and one of the few Tongans who may by tradition eat with him. When Vaea was posted to London, the King created him Baron Vaea of Houma. This is in the nature of a Life Peerage, which will not descend to his son.

Vaea is tall, affable and, despite his weight and age, is a keen and not inconsiderable tennis player.

Married to Tuputupu, siter of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly: their eldest daughter, Nanasipau'u (Nanasi), married HRH Prince Lavaka Ata, youngest son of the King and Queen, in December 1982.

24 October 1983

MR SONATANE TU'A TAUMOEPEAU TUPOU, BA

Born 1943.

Educated at Newington College, Sydney, and at the University of Hawaii, where he gained his BA (Political Science).

Appointed Assistant Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office in 1969. In 1971 was commissioned as First Lieutenant in Tonga Defence Services. Served as First Secretary at Tonga High Commission in London from 1973-77. Appointed Deputy Secretary to Government in 1978. In 1979 was promoted to the position of Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Secretary to the Defence Board, which he held until he was given his present appointment.

He accompanied his former Minister, Crown Prince Tupouto'a on several of his overseas visits.

Married to Amelia Latuniau 'Ahome'e, the Queen's youngest sister: one son and two daughters.

The full mode of address is Mr Taumoepeau* Tupou, but for convenience he may be addressed as Mr Tupou, pronounced Too-poh (rhymes with 'low')

*pronounced Tow (as in 'towel')-mo-ay-pay-ow

October 1983

HL

24 October 1983

Prime Minister's talks with the King of Tonga

I agree to the arrangements proposed in John Holmes's letter of 20 October.

JOHN COLES

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SH

VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY KING TAUFA'AHAU TUPON IV AND
HER MAJESTY QUEEN HALAEVALU MATA'AHO OF TONGA
24-28 OCTOBER 1983

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

(to be in read in conjunction with programme attached)

TRANSPORT

Cars will be provided throughout the period of the official visit and seating plans are shown at Annex 1.

GUARD OF HONOUR

The procedure is shown at Annex II.

Addition to programme. Cars will enter by the Centre Gate and Garden entrance on arrival at Buckingham Palace.

PARTICIPATION OF OFFICIAL SUITE IN THE PROGRAMME

Luncheon given by Her Majesty The Queen

The following are also invited:

The Honourable The Baron Vaea

High Commissioner for Tonga and Mrs Taumoepeau-Tupou

Mr B Coleman

The following are invited to lunch with the Household:

Ensign The Honourable Tu'ivanuavou Vaea

Dr Taniela Palu

Mrs Elsa Sanft

Mrs 'Eseta Fusitu'a

Talks with the Prime Minister

After the tête-à-tête talk the following will join the King and the Prime Minister for the plenary talks:

Tonga Minister for Labour, Commerce and Industries

Tonga High Commissioner

The Rt Hon The Baroness Young

British High Commissioner to Tonga

Other events in the joint programme

All members of the official suite will accompany the King and Queen.

When the King undertakes his separate programme he will be accompanied by:

The Honourable The Baron Vaea

Tonga High Commissioner

Mr Coleman

Ensign The Honourable T'ivanuavou Vaea

Mrs 'Eseta Fusitu'a

Dr Taniela Palu

Mr Ralph Sanft

When The Queen undertakes her separate programme she will be accompanied by:

Mrs Taumoepeau-Tupou

Mrs Elsa Sanft

The Hon Diana Makgill

J H W Reid (Miss)
Inward Visits Section
Protocol Department

21 October 1983

CAR PLAN

Tuesday 25 October

Residence to Westminster Abbey

Car 1	His Majesty The King Ensign The Hon Tu'ivanuavou Vaea Group Captain Thomson Special Branch Officer
Car 2	Her Majesty The Queen The Hon Diana Makgill Special Branch Officer
Car 3	The Hon The Baron Vaea High Commissioner for Tonga Mr Coleman Tonga Security Officer
Car 4	Mrs Taumoepeau-Tupon Mrs Sanft
Car 5	Mrs Fusitu'a Dr Palu Mr Sanft

Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace

Car 1	His Majesty The King Ensign The Hon Tu'ivanuavou Vaea Group Captain Thomson Special Branch Officer
Car 2	Her Majesty The Queen The Hon Diana Makgill Special Branch Officer
Car 3	The Hon The Baron Vaea High Commissioner for Tonga Mr Coleman Tonga Security Officer
Car 4	Mrs Taumoepeau-Tupou Mrs Sanft Mrs Fusitu'a Dr Palu

Mr Sanft will have the use of car 5 on departure from the Abbey until he joins the party after lunch.

Buckingham Palace to British Petroleum and to Residence, Residence to Arsenal Stadium and return

Car 1 His Majesty The King
Ensign The Hon Tu'ivanuavou Vaea
Group Captain Thomson
Special Branch Officer

Car 3 The Hon The Baron Vaea
High Commissioner for Tonga
Mr Coleman
Tonga Security Officer

Car 5 Mrs Fusitu'a
Dr Palu
Mr Sanft

Buckingham Palace to British Red Cross Society, Residence Residence to New London Theatre, 1 Carlton Gardens and return to Residence

Car 2 Her Majesty The Queen
The Hon Diana Makgill

Car 4 Mrs Taumoepeau-Tupou
Mrs Sanft

Wednesday, 26 October

For His Majesty The King of Tonga's programme throughout the day:-

Car 1 His Majesty The King
Ensign The Hon Tu'ivanavou Vaea
Group Captain Thomson
Special Branch Officer

Car 3 The Hon The Baron Vaea
High Commissioner for Tonga
Mr Coleman
Tonga Security Officer

Car 5 Mrs Fusitu'a
Dr Palu
Mr Sanft

For Her Majesty The Queen of Tonga's programme throughout the day:-

Car 2 Her Majesty The Queen
The Hon Diana Makgill
Special Branch Officer

Car 4 Mrs Taumoepeau-Tupou
Mrs Sanft

Thursday, 27 October and Friday, 28 October

Cars will be allocated as for Wednesday, 26 October

GUARD OF HONOUR - Procedure

1. A Guard of Honour found by 2nd Battalion Scots Guards under the command of Major R N Potter with the Regimental Colour, the Band of the Irish Guards and the Pipes and Drums of the Battalion will be formed in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Quadrangle on Wednesday 26 October at 1200 hours to greet His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga. High Commission staff and other spectators are requested to arrive not later than 1130 hours.

2. At 1150 hours Major-General James Eyre, Major-General Commanding the Household Division, will arrive in the Quadrangle. He will be accompanied by the Brigade Major, Lt Col R J S Wardle, Brigade Major of the Household Division.

3. At 1152 hours the Prime Minister will arrive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Quadrangle through the Main Archway; she will be met at the Archway by Major-General James Eyre. The Major-General will then escort the Prime Minister to the right (west) of the dais where she will receive the King of Tonga.

4. At 1155 hours the Queen of Tonga will arrive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Quadrangle via King Charles Street and will be received by the Prime Minister. At 1157 hours the members of the official suite will arrive. They will alight from their cars just beyond the dais (ie to the east of the latter). They will remain near the Colour points on the east side of the Main Archway (see diagram attached). The cars will proceed to the east of the King Charles Street Archway and await the arrival of the King and his party. As soon as this car has entered the Quadrangle the cars of the official suite should proceed to park in the south west corner of the Quadrangle.

5. At 1200 hours the King will arrive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office via King Charles Street.

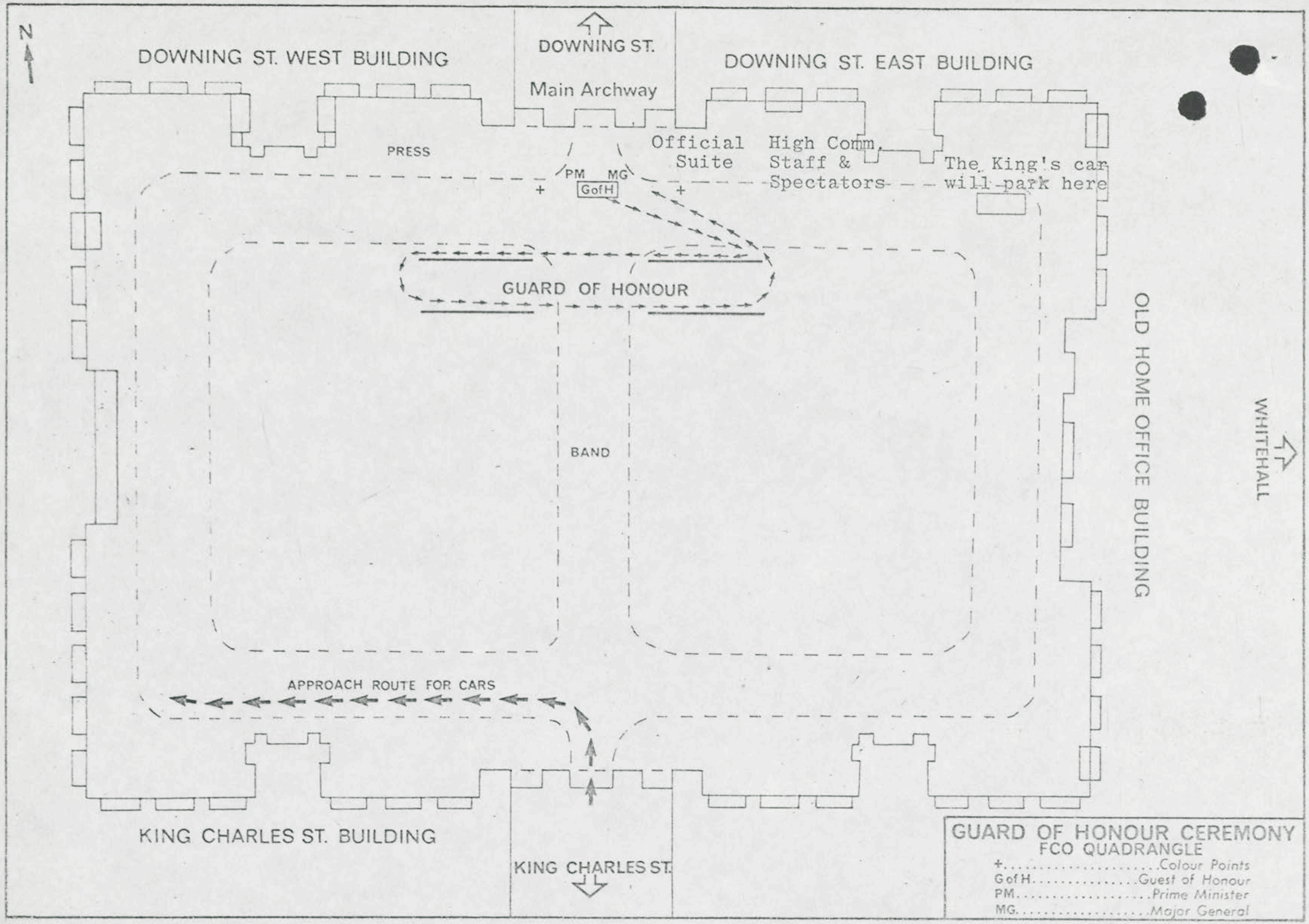
6. The Prime Minister will welcome him and present Major-General Eyre who will escort the King to his place. The Prime Minister will then take up a position on his right and behind the King and the Major-General will take up his position on the left and behind the King. The Guard Commander will present his Guard of Honour to the King. If the King wishes to inspect the Guard of Honour the Major-General will accompany His Majesty and the Guard Commander on the inspection. The Prime Minister should remain in the vicinity of the dais with the Brigade Major until the inspection is completed and the Major-General has accompanied the King back to the dais. The Prime Minister will then escort the King to No. 10 Downing Street. Those participating in the talks will follow. In the event that the King does not inspect the Guard of Honour the Prime Minister will escort His Majesty to No. 10 Downing Street after the Guard Commander has presented his Guard of Honour. The Queen will be escorted to her car.

7. Meanwhile the Major-General and the Brigade Major will have taken their leave of the King and will authorise the dispersal of the Guard of Honour once the King has departed for No. 10 Downing Street.

/Wet Weather Programme

Wet Weather Programme

In the event of wet weather the Parade will not be cancelled. The programme will continue as scheduled up to the point where the inspection of the Guard of Honour should begin. If there is heavy rain at that point in the programme and the King does not wish to inspect the Guard of Honour, the Prime Minister should lead the King to No. 10 Downing Street.



Map Section, L&R Dept., FCO, May 1983

DISTRIBUTION

Buckingham Palace

Private Secretary (2)
Press Secretary (2)

10 Downing Street

Private Secretary (2)
Press Secretary (2)
Mr P Jose (1)

Tongo High Commission (10)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Private Secretary (2)
Private Secretary/The Rt Hon The Baroness Young (2)
PS/PUS
Mr Giffard (1)
Mr Donald (1)
Mr Chick (1)
Mr B Cleman c/o SPD
SPD (Miss Proctor) (4)
News Dept (Miss McGlone) (3)
Heads of Mission
POD
Resident Clerk (1)
Miss Lothian (1)
Protocol Dept (8)
Government Hospitality Fund (20)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 October 1983

Dear John,

Prime Minister's Talks with the King of Tonga: 26 October 1983

The Prime Minister has agreed to meet The King of Tonga who will be in London as a guest of the Government for talks on Wednesday, 26 October. These talks will take place at 1215 following a Guard of Honour in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office courtyard at mid-day, and before the Prime Minister hosts a luncheon in honour of The King and Queen of Tonga at 1 p.m.

The King would welcome the opportunity for ten or fifteen minutes private conversation. The talks could then be enlarged to include the following lunch guests:

Baron Vaea of Houma, Tongan Minister of Labour, Commerce and Industries

HE Mr Sonatane Tu'a Taumoepeau-Tupou, High Commissioner for Tonga

The Rt Hon The Baroness Young
Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

HE Mr Bernard Coleman, British High Commissioner to Tonga

Perhaps you could let me know whether the Prime Minister is content with these arrangements. Briefing will follow.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

AJ(N) cc Mrs Goodchild

26 September 1983

Dear William,

Visit of TM The King and Queen of Tonga as Guests of Government: Guest List for Prime Minister's Luncheon, Wednesday 26 October

Further to my letter of 19 September, I attach a suggested guest list for the luncheon which the Prime Minister has agreed to host in honour of King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV and Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho on Wednesday 26 October.

Yours ever

Roger Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

W Rickett Esq
10 Downing Street

GUEST LIST FOR LUNCHEON TO BE HOSTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN HONOUR OF THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN OF TONGA, 26 OCTOBER 1983

Host

1	The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher	
2	and Mr Thatcher	

Official Suite

3	His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV GCMG GCVO KBE	
4	and Her Majesty Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho	
5	Baron Vaea of Houma Minister of Labour, Commerce and Industries	
6	The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP Secretary of State for Trade and Industry	Department of Trade and Industry 1 Victoria Street London SW1 Tel: 01 215 5422
7	and Mrs Parkinson	
8	HE Mr Sonatane Tu'a Taumoepeau-Tupou High Commissioner for Tonga	
9	and Mrs Taumoepeau-Tupou	
10	HE Mr Bernard Coleman High Commissioner to Tonga	c/o FCO
11	and Mrs Coleman	

HMG

12	The Rt Hon The Baroness Young Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	c/o FCO
13	and Dr Young	
14	The Hon Lord Belstead Minister of State for Agriculture (met the King in Tonga in October 1982)	MAFF
15	The Hon J P Stanley MP Minister of State for the Armed Forces	Ministry of Defence Whitehall London SW1 (Telno 01 218 6326)
16	and Mrs Stanley	

Diplomatic Corps

17	HE Mr R F Anthony Roberts High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (and senior High Commissioner)	High Commission for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas 39 Pall Mall London SW1Y 5JG (Telno 01 930 6967)
18	and Mrs Roberts	

19	HE The Hon W L Young High Commissioner for New Zealand	New Zealand House Haymarket London SW1Y 4TQ (Telno 01 930 3422)
20	and Mrs Young	

Commonwealth

21	Mr James F Porter Director	Commonwealth Institute Kensington High Street London W8 6NQ (Telno 01 603 4535)
22	and Mrs D Porter	
23	Mr D A Anderson OBE Managing Director of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation	c/o Commonwealth Secretariat Marlborough House Pall Mall London SW1Y 5HX (Telno 01 839 3411)
24	and Mrs Anderson	
25	Mr 'Inoke Faletau Director, Commonwealth Management Development Programme and former Tongan High Commissioner to UK	Commonwealth Secretariat Marlborough House Pall Mall London SW1Y 5HX (Telno 01 839 3411)
26	and Mrs Faletau	

Reserve

	HE Mr Shridath Ramphal OE AC Kt CMG QC SC Secretary General and Mrs Lois W Ramphal	Commonwealth Secretariat Marlborough House Pall Mall London SW1Y 5HX (Telno 01 839 3411)

VSO

27	Mr Frank Judd Director Voluntary Service Overseas	VSO 9 Belgrave Square London SW1X 8PW (Telno 01 235 5191)
28	and Mrs Judd	

Members of Parliament

29	Sir Bernard Braine Kt DL MP (C, Castle Point) and Lady Braine (long standing interest in welfare of	House of Commons London SW1A OAA (Telno 219 3000)
30	Pacific Islands)	
31	John E D D Browne MP (C, Winchester)	"
32	and Mrs Browne (Joint Vice-Chairman, Anglo South Pacific Group)	
33	George Robertson MP (La, Hamilton)	"
34	and Mrs Robertson (Deputy Foreign Affairs Spokesman whose brief includes the Pacific)	

35 36	Russell Johnston MP (Lib, Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber) and Mrs Johnston (Liberal Spokesman on Foreign Affairs)	House of Commons London SW1A OAA (Telno 219 3000)
	Business World	
37 38	Mr Nevil R Jones Executive Director and Mrs Jones (King of Tonga has expressed specific interest in UK aircraft)	Hawker Siddeley International Ltd 32 Duke Street St James London SW1Y 6DG (Telno 01 930 6177)
39 40	Mr Eric Sharp Chairman and Mrs Sharp	Cable and Wireless Mercury House Theobalds Road London WC1 (Telno 01 242 4433)
41	Sir Arthur Norman KBE DSC Chairman (Tongan currency)	Thomas De La Rue & Co PLC De La Rue House 3-5 Burlington Gardens London W1A 1DL (Telno 01 734 8020)
42 43	Mr C Neville Packett and Mrs Packett (Mr Packett was suggested by the King of Tonga. He is an insurance broker who has been conducting business in Tonga for many years.)	Sydney Packett and Sons Ltd Lloyds Bank Chambers Hustler Gate Bradford (Telno 0274 308755)
44 45	Mr John Oakley Chairman and Mrs Oakley (At the suggestion of Mr Coleman)	Freedom Yachts International Ltd Portsmouth Road Lowford Southampton (Telno 042 121 5197)
	Others	
46 47	Christina Foyle (Mrs Roland Batty) Managing Director, W G Foyle Ltd and Mr Roland Batty (King has strong literary interests: suggestion of Mr Coleman)	Beeleigh Abbey Maldon Essex
48 49	Mr Philip Snow (Author of "The People from the Horizon" and other books on the Pacific) and Mrs Snow	Horton House 6 Hillmorton Road Rugby Warwickshire

Reserve

	Baron Dacre (Hugh Trevor Roper) Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge and Lady Dacre	Master's Lodge Peterhouse Cambridge
50 51	Lt Col D R Beat MVO Commandant and Director of Music and Mrs Beat (The King has an interest in brass band music; suggestion of Mr Coleman)	Royal Military School of Music Kneller Hall Kneller Road Twickenham Tel: 01 898 5533

Military

52 53	Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse Chief of Naval Staff and Lady Fieldhouse (RN Task Group to visit Tonga 9-11 January 1984)	Ministry of Defence Whitehall London SW1 Tel: 01 218 6510

Reserve

	Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall GCB OBE MC Chief of Defence Staff and Lady Bramall	MOD Whitehall

Churchmen

54 55	The Rt Reverend J S Habgood Ma PhD Bishop of Durham and Mrs Habgood (Archbishop designate of York - to be enthroned on 18 November, has expressed interest in South Pacific Affairs)	Auckland Castle Bishop Auckland

Reserve

	The Most Reverend and Rt Hon The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs Runcie	Lambeth Palace London SE1 5JW Tel: 01 928 8282

Media

56 57	Charles Douglas-Home Editor and Mrs Douglas-Home	Times Newspapers New Printing House Square 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1 Tel: 01 837 1234

Reserve

	Peter Preston Esq Editor and Mrs Preston	The Guardian 119 Farringdon Road London EC1 Tel: 01 278 2332

58	Ben Kingsley Actor and Mrs Kingsley	c/o International Creative Management 22 Grafton Street London W1 Tel: 01 629 8086
	<u>Reserve</u>	
	The Lord Thomson of Monifieth Chairman and Lady Thomson	Independent Broadcasting Authority 70 Brompton Road London SW3 Tel: 01 584 7011
60	Mr Alan Benjamin Philatelic Consultant to Government of Tonga and Mrs Benjamin	Combined Philatelic Agency 184-186 Portland Road London SE25 4QB
	<u>Reserve</u>	
	Mr J Aspinall Chaiman and Mrs Aspinall (Tongan stamps)	Walsall Security Printers Walsall Lithographic Co Ltd Midland Road Walsall, Staffs Tel: 0922 25272
62	Mr David Clay District Adminstrator and Mrs Clay (at the suggestion of Mr Coleman; The Queen has interest in care of mentally & physically handicapped)	Stoke Mandeville Hospital Stoke Mandeville Aylesbury Tel: 0296 84111
64	Mr E A Croker Secretary and Mrs Croker (King of Tonga has strong interest in soccer)	The Football Association 16 Lancaster Gate London W2 Tel: 01 262 4542

HL

23 September 1983

Visit of King and Queen of Tonga as Guests of Government

Thank you for your letter of 19 September to John Coles. The Prime Minister is happy with the arrangements for this visit that you suggest: a guard of honour at 1200 and talks at 1215.

BF

WILLIAM RICKETT

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NR

010

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Agree?

WM 19/9

Yes MT

19 September 1983

Dear John,

Visit of King and Queen of Tonga as Guests of Government

You are aware that His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, King of Tonga, and Her Majesty Queen Halevalu Mat'aho have accepted an invitation to visit Britain as Guest of Government from 25-28 October and that the Prime Minister has agreed to host a luncheon in their honour on Wednesday 26 October.

It will also be necessary to offer the King at least a short call. This would most conveniently take place immediately before the lunch, and could be preceded by a Guard of Honour in the FCO courtyard. I suggest that the Guard of Honour could be at 1200 and the call at 1215. The Queen of Tonga would attend the Guard of Honour and the Prime Minister's luncheon but pursue a separate programme during the talks.

I will let you have a guest list as soon as possible.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 August 1983

As I told you on the telephone this morning, I have consulted the Prime Minister about how we might use the slot in our diaries relinquished by President Jayewardene. She has agreed that we should approach the President of Algeria and ask if he would like to visit this country as a "guest of Government". The Prime Minister would be willing to offer the President talks and lunch on 26 October.

If the President of Algeria does not accept the Prime Minister is willing for you to approach the King and Queen of Tonga. She would be willing to offer them lunch on 26 October.

WR

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SUBJECT

Tonga T172c/79T

(2)

Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T172c/79T

Royal Palace,
Nuku'alofa,
TONGA.

20th December, 1979.

My Dear Prime Minister,

We have arrived back somewhat exhausted by so much travel but pleased to have been received with so much goodwill wherever we went.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind invitation to No. 10 Downing Street. It is always a pleasure to visit the house where so many crucial decisions affecting the life of Britain and the Free World have been made over the years.

Queen Mata'aho and I want to thank the British Government for many courtesies to us on the Continent as well as in Britain itself.

We hope you and your family will enjoy the Christmas Season and the New Year.

Taufa'ahau Tupou

THE KING OF TONGA.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of England,
No. 10 Downing Street,
London,
ENGLAND.

FCO w D/Sec Tonga. VR
cc Master.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 December 1979

Dear Rodric,

Visit of the King of Tonga

The King of Tonga called on the Prime Minister, as arranged, on 4 December for tea. He was unaccompanied. The conversation touched on a number of different subjects including Cambodia, relations with China and Taiwan, Vietnamese refugees and the Tongan economy. I do not think that any of the points made on these subjects need be recorded.

It may, however, be of interest that the King expressed optimism about the prospects of finding oil in Tonga's offshore waters. He said that oil, of all grades, seeps into the Tongan water table. SOHIO have been exploring the possibilities of commercial exploitation: the main survey data are currently being analysed at the company's headquarters in the United States. The results are expected early in the New Year.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Bill Burroughs (Department of Energy).

Yours ever

Michael Alexander

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SUBJECT

file TMP

Tonga

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T162/79T

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 December 1979

Sir,

I so enjoyed our meeting this afternoon and would like to thank you most sincerely for the beautiful basket made out of Pandanus leaves that you presented to me. This is a most beautiful traditional gift from your country and one which I will treasure.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV,
GCMG, GCVO, KBE

cc Prime Minister
Gifts, May 79

CAROLINE

King of Tonga

I understand from the Foreign Office that the King of Tonga will be bringing a present for the Prime Minister tomorrow - a traditional basket of Pandanus leaves.

Sue

3 December 1979

PRIME MINISTER
Notes for the Tonga meeting on Tuesday

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

MAP 30/XI.

30 November 1979

Dear Michael,

Courtesy Call on the Prime Minister by the King and Queen of Tonga at 16.15 on 4 December

As requested in your letter of 22 November I enclose briefing for the above call in the form of a background note on Tonga, a short defensive brief on aid, and personality notes on the King and Queen.

The King is a good conversationalist with an interest in European history. (We understand that he spoke at length to Herr Genscher, the German Foreign Minister, about Bismarck). He may mention to the Prime Minister the exchanges of Ministerial messages on the centenary (on 29 November) of the Anglo/Tongan Treaty of Friendship. I have written to you separately about this.

4 December was the birthday of King George Tupou I (1845-93) during whose reign civil wars which had been rife in the Tonga islands were finally checked and in whose name the Treaty of 1879 was signed. Although the birthday is no longer celebrated in Tonga as it used to be, it remains an important date in the Tongan calendar.

Yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O' D B ALexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

VISIT OF THE KING AND QUEEN OF TONGA: 1 - 6 DECEMBER 1979

TONGA: BACKGROUND BRIEF

1. The Kingdom of Tonga is formed from a group of islands to the North-east of New Zealand. It is a constitutional monarchy - the only one (apart from The Queen's Other Realms) in the South Pacific. On 29 November, 1879, the King of Tonga signed a Treaty of Friendship with the United Kingdom. In 1900, Tonga became a British Protected State, and in 1970 a fully independent member of the Commonwealth. She is associated with the EEC under the Lomé Convention. She is not a member of the United Nations, but belongs to Pacific regional associations such as the South Pacific Forum.

POLITICAL STRUCTURE

2. The single-chamber Parliament comprises 8 Cabinet Ministers, 7 Nobles elected by the 33 Hereditary Nobles, and 7 commoners elected by universal adult suffrage. There are no political parties. Elections are held every three years.

4. The focus of power centres on the King. His brother is the Prime Minister and his eldest son is Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence. All Ministers hold office at the King's pleasure.

ECONOMY

5. Almost wholly agricultural (statistical annex attached).

FOREIGN POLICY

6. Except where the King scents the prospect of aid (as he did in Libya which he visited in February), Tonga's main interests lie in the South Pacific. Her only overseas mission is the High Commission in London. There are British and New Zealand High Commissioners resident in Nuku'alofa and a Taiwanese Chargé

/d'Affaires.

d'Affaires. The Australian Government have announced that they will appoint a resident High Commissioner shortly.

RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN

7. The King has continued the Tongan royal tradition of maintaining close ties with Britain, where his mother, Queen Salote, is remembered from the time of the coronation of H M The Queen. Relations are very friendly and the only outstanding piece of unsettled business concerns a British financed road development project in Tonga (see separate brief).

8. Our direct interests in Tonga are small. Indirectly we have an interest in Tonga as a moderate influence in the Commonwealth and in the South Pacific (where she enjoys, because of her monarchy, a prestige out of proportion to her size).

BACKGROUND TO VISIT

9. In the past two months the King and Queen have paid State Visits to Australia and New Zealand (6 October - 5 November) and West Germany (18 - 27 November). After Germany they were due to visit Paris briefly (for lunch with President Giscard) and they will be paying a private visit to the Netherlands before coming to London.

10. In Hamburg the King launched a ship built for Tonga with German aid. In Bonn, where the King met President Carstens, Chancellor Schmidt and Herr Genscher, two new aid agreements worth £3m were signed: one for the construction of a Marine Training Centre and one for an inter-island ferry.

11. The Queen is giving a private lunch for Their Majesties at Buckingham Palace on 4 December.

12. Personality notes on the King and Queen are attached.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
29 November 1979

VISIT BY THE KING AND QUEEN OF TONGA: 1-6 NOVEMBER 1979

BRITISH AID TO TONGA (DEFENSIVE)

Points to make

1. No new aid commitments involving signature of further bilateral agreements, such as the Tonga roads project, are being entered into pending completion of the current review of the UK Aid Programme for 1980/81 and beyond.

Background

/For use if necessary/

2. British capital aid is being provided under a £1m loan agreement signed in 1977. Two projects - assistance for the Tonga Development Bank and for electricity development - were approved last year. They are going ahead: cost £870,000.

3. Ministers told the Tonga Government last year that we were ready to approve a project for roads development costing £548,000 and that the loan would be increased accordingly. But such an increase has been overtaken by the review of the UK Aid Programme.

/Not to be disclosed/

4. The reduced 1980/81 UK Aid Programme is already substantially committed. "Near commitments" like the Tonga roads project will probably have to be examined case by case in the light of the outcome of the review.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
28 November 1979

TONGA:

HIS MAJESTY KING TAUFA'AHAU TUPOU IV GCMG GCVO KBE

Born 4 July 1918, eldest son of Queen Salote. Succeeded to the Throne on her death in 1965.

Educated in Tonga and at Sydney University (BA LLB).

Minister for Health and Education 1943-50. Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Education and Works 1950-65. First Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific 1971-74.

Although Tonga is still run on semi-feudal lines, the King is proud of the constitutional advances he has granted. He has ambitious plans for Tonga's development, but they tend to be grandiose and economically unrealistic. He is greatly respected in Tonga and in the other South Pacific island states.

Widely travelled, he has been a frequent visitor to Britain (his two younger sons went to Leys School, Cambridge) and is very well disposed towards us. He is well known to our own Royal Family: The Queen visited Tonga in 1970 and during the Royal Jubilee tour in 1977.

A huge, slow-moving man (6' 4" and 26 stone), the King nevertheless has an alert and enquiring mind and great personal charm. He is well-read and talks easily on a wide variety of subjects.

Married 1947: 3 sons and 1 daughter. A devoted family man.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

November 1979

TONGA:

HER MAJESTY QUEEN HALAEVALU MATA'AHO

Born 29 May 1926. Daughter of a Tongan noble.

Convent-educated in Tonga and Auckland.

She has accompanied the King on numerous State Visits, and has frequently visited Britain. Well disposed towards us.

Patron of the Tongan Red Cross and Girl Guides, and takes a lively interest in their activities. She is a successful market gardener and poultry breeder, a keen churchwoman and an excellent cook. Very musical.

Devoted to her children, particularly her only daughter Princess Pilolevu (wife of the First Secretary at the Tongan High Commission in London) and her grandchildren.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office
November 1979

TONGA: STATISTICS

Population and Land Area

(a) Land Area	699 km^2
(b) Population (1978)	93 thousand
(c) Population growth rate (1974-78)	1.5 % pa

2. Economic

(i) Gross National Product

	1976
(a) Total	30 US $ m
(b) Growth rate	3.3 % pa
(c) Per capita	350 US $ (1977 US $ 370)

(ii)(a) Balance of Payments

US $ Thousand

	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
Exports fob	8,482	4,669	4,442	6,722
Imports fob	-20,853	-16,724	-15,992	-16,369
Invisibles & Transfers (net)	12,752	9,979	9,478	9,043
Current Account	381	-2,076	-2,072	-604
Capital Account	2,431	758	4,533	3,471
Overall Balance	2,812	-1,318	2,461	2,867
(b) International Reserves (US $ Million)	11.6	12.0	9.8	7.1

Figures refer to fiscal year ending 30 June

(iii) Foreign Trade

(a) Main Exports	1978
Copra	58.9 %
Bananas	3.6 %
Desiccated Coconut	14.6 %

(b) Main Export Markets	1978
Netherlands	29.0 %
New Zealand	22.3 %
UK	21.3 %
FR Germany	10.8 %

(c) Major Imports	1978
Manufactures	41.6 %
Foodstuffs	27.9 %
Petroleum and Petroleum Products	10.4 %

(d) Major Sources of Imports	1978
New Zealand	37.2 %
Australia	28.1 %
Japan	6.7 %
UK	5.9 %

(e) UK Trade with Tonga	1978
UK Exports to Tonga	£714,000
UK Imports from Tonga	£794,000

RESTRICTED

TONGA
B/F 30-11

22 November 1979

Visit of the King and Queen of Tonga

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 20 November on this subject. She would be happy to offer the King and Queen tea on Tuesday 4 December at 1615. This invitation will have to be subject to the proviso that it may be cancelled if the Prime Minister is for any reason unable to make a statement about the European Council on Monday 3 December.

I should be grateful if you could let me have briefing for the call by close of play on Friday 30 November.

MO'DBA

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Would you like to offer the King tea on Thursday, 4 December. This will be free if you make your statement about Dublin on Monday 3 December?

Agreed

MT

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 November 1979

Dear Michael,

Visit of the King and Queen of Tonga

King Taufa'ahua Tupou IV (son of the late Queen Salote) and Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho of Tonga, who passed through London last week en route to a State Visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, followed by a visit to France, are due to return here from 1-6 December. The main purpose of their visit will be to see their youngest son, who is at the University of East Anglia, and their only daughter, the wife of the First Secretary at the Tongan High Commission in London.

The King and Queen make fairly frequent private visits to London. They were last here in February this year, when they were entertained to tea by the Queen Mother. The Queen has now invited them to a private lunch at Buckingham Palace on 4 December.

Tonga is made up of a group of Islands to the north of New Zealand, with a population of nearly 100,000. Despite its small size, Tonga's ancient monarchy, and the King's own substantial presence, invest him with great prestige in the surrounding Pacific Island states as well as in Tonga itself. Although Tonga has a parliamentary form of government, in practice the focus of power still centres on the King (whose Prime Minister is his youngest brother). The King has continued the Tongan royal tradition of maintaining close ties with Britain (even more than with his New Zealand and Australian neighbours) and he is very well disposed towards us. The centenary of the 1879 Anglo/Tongan Treaty of Friendship falls on 29 November this year. Although this Treaty has been superseded by later treaties, which have themselves fallen away except for an article providing for perpetual peace and friendship between Britain and Tonga, the Treaty illustrates the long-standing links between our two countries.

To the best of our knowledge, the King has not been received by a British Prime Minister since Mr Heath gave a dinner for him in 1972. The King told Lord Trefgarne last week that he hoped to meet the Prime Minister when he returned to London.

Although our direct interests in Tonga are small, it is, of course, a member of the Commonwealth, and one with which we have had links of over a century. The Prime Minister will, I know, be

/very busy

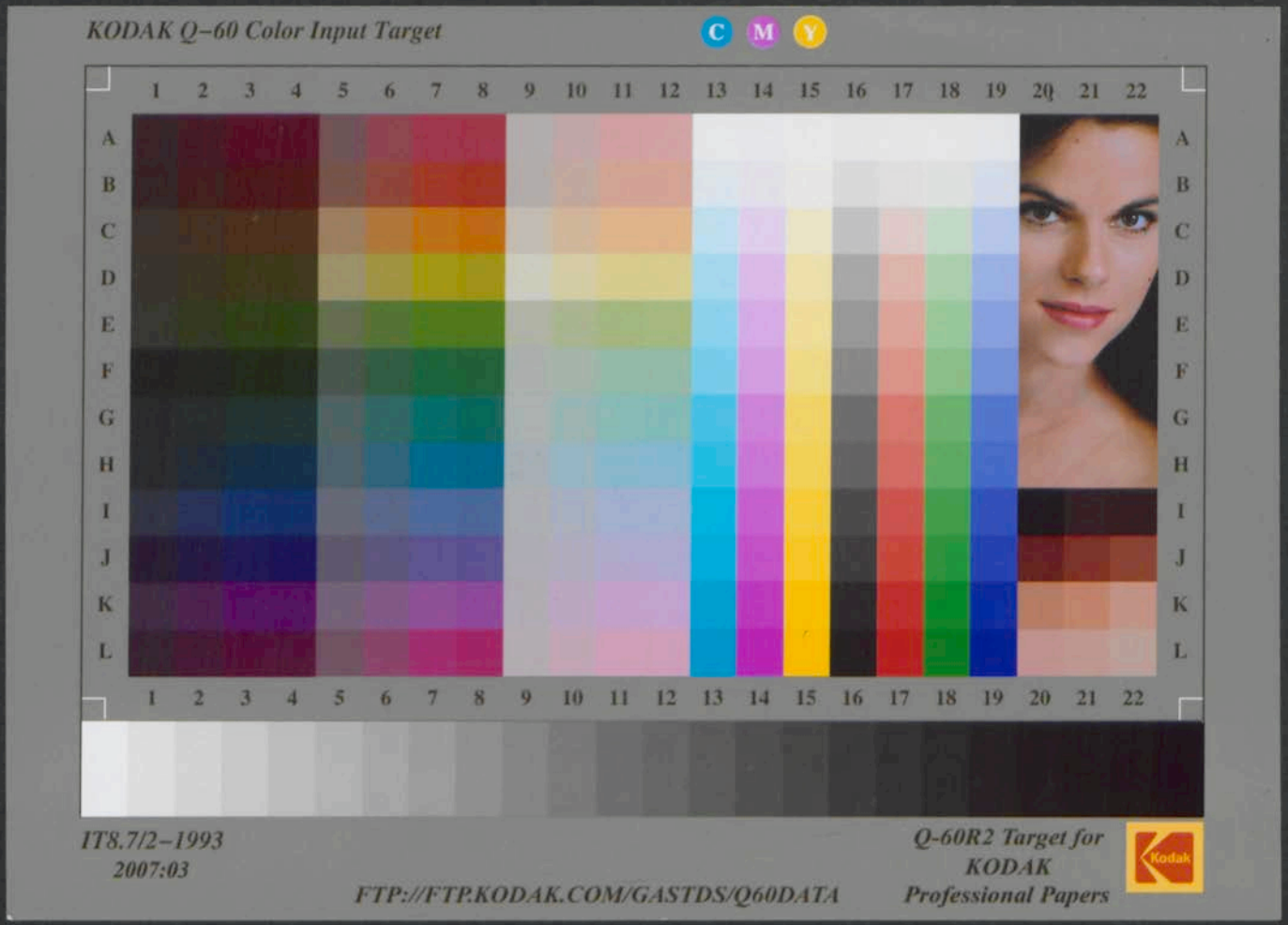
M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

very busy between 3 and 5 December. If, nevertheless, she has time to do so, Lord Carrington would consider it useful for her to invite the King and Queen to make a courtesy call; Lord Carrington does not consider that the Prime Minister need offer them a meal during this private visit.

Yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary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