

CONFIDENTIAL FILING.

Possible festival at Britain in 1991.

HOME AFFAIRS

October 1987.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>5.10.87.</del> 27.10.87							
PREM 19/2225							



SUBJECT CC MASTER

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

27 October, 1987.

**FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN, 1991**

Your Secretary of State this morning discussed with the Prime Minister his idea for another Festival of Britain, to be held in 1991. This would celebrate the achievements of British commerce and industry, and would be situated in the London Docklands.

The Prime Minister was not convinced that it would be appropriate to repeat a Festival which had been mounted by a Labour Government and heavily criticised by the Conservative Opposition of the day. If, however, industry wanted to mount such a Festival, that would be a different matter, though there would need to be something specific to which the Festival could be related, for example, the renewal of Docklands or achievements in inner cities.

Your Secretary of State explained that he had in mind a more national occasion, and said he would reflect further on the possibilities during the next two or three months.

(David Norgrove)

Tim Walker, Esq.,  
Department of Trade and Industry.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

RC



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

5 October 1987

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 2 October, in which he proposes a Festival of Britain in May 1991. Although I am sure that she will be ready to discuss this during their next bilateral, I should point out now that her initial feeling is that she would not support such a Festival. In particular, she feels that it would not be appropriate to celebrate the 1951 Festival which took place under a Labour Administration.

(P. A. BEARPARK)

Jeremy Godfrey, Esq.,  
Department of Trade and Industry.

6





I am glad a 1991 Festival - merely  
 to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Festival during the jubilee  
 for 2000 year.  
 not Prime Minister?

We can put this on the agenda  
 for your next meeting with Lord Young

PRIME MINISTER

The country is experiencing a period of economic growth combined with stability unknown, if truth be told, in my lifetime. Company profits, exports, productivity and growth are up, and unemployment and inflation are down. Before the election this may have been contested but there has been a sea change in public perception since.

ADJ  
 2/11.

What we do need is a focal point to bring home the great changes that have occurred since 1979. We need to take pride in our new achievements and give expression to our recognition in the new Britain in the way we did in 1851 and again in 1951.

We need  
 to be as  
 a national  
 the  
 celebrations  
 for 2000  
 N.C.U.

The fortieth anniversary of the Festival of Britain will be in May 1991. The Festival took place on the South Bank and provided focus for national pride in our recovery after the war. I have seen Christopher Benson of London Docklands who tells me that there is at least one suitable site for a Festival of Britain there. It would be over 200 acres in area and Docklands would be no better location (within an Inner City) to show the changes that have occurred during the twelve years of your premiership.

Any Festival will also be an opportunity to emulate the 1851 Exhibition and show British products and designs to the world. It would also be largely funded by the private sector although we might have to bring forward some infra-structure expenditure.

Can I discuss this with you as a matter of urgency? There can be few more imaginative gestures to bring home the great changes that you have inspired.

D Y

2 October 1987

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY



IT8.7/2-1993  
2009:02

Image  
Access

IT-8 Target

Printed on Kodak Professional Paper

Charge: R090212