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PM Tours Abroad,
May 79, Tokyo and
Canberra Admin.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 May 1979

Dear Bryan,

Overseas Visits by the Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 11 May asking for the views of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on the places the Prime Minister might visit after the Tokyo Summit.

Lord Carrington thinks that, rather than going to Singapore and Malaysia, the Prime Minister should consider a brief visit to Australia. The reasons are as follows:

- (a) No British Prime Minister has made a visit of substance to Australia since Mr Macmillan;
- (b) The importance of the UK/Australia connection and of our political and commercial interests;
- (c) The growing importance and influence of Australia, not just in Asia and the Pacific, but also more widely: Australia's Chairmanship of the Regional Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Sydney last year was a notable success;
- (d) The Australian Prime Minister had hoped for a seat at the Tokyo Summit, and the Japanese would have given it to him if all the others had agreed. If the Prime Minister's first action after the summit is to go to Canberra to tell Mr Fraser about it, this would do more than any other gesture to show the Australians the value we put on the relationship. It might also forestall the Japanese.

There would be no need for Mrs Thatcher to go also to New Zealand, because the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr Muldoon, will be in London next month (10 to 12 June); and the Prime Minister will be entertaining him to lunch.

The attached outline travel schedule shows that the Prime Minister could spend two days (and nights) in Canberra and still get back to London in good time before her proposed meeting with President Turbay of Colombia, about which I am writing to you separately.

/If

Bryan Cartledge Esq
10 Downing Street

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If the Prime Minister would still prefer to visit South-East Asia, Lord Carrington thinks there would be no need to visit Singapore because Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, will also be in London in June and Mrs Thatcher could see him then. In this case a visit to Kuala Lumpur could be combined with one to Delhi, where there would be much value in establishing a personal relationship with Mr Desai well in advance of Lusaka. The outline travel schedule covers this as well.

Lord Carrington will also arrange to visit one or two countries after Tokyo, once he knows the Prime Minister's plans.

I am copying this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

For ever,
Stephen

J S Wall
Private Secretary

of PM Terms Abroad,
Tokyo and Canberra
Admin.



SS

cc co

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 June 1979

21
BF ~~20.6.79~~

OVERSEAS VISITS BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 21 May, in which you conveyed the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's advice that the Prime Minister should pay a brief visit to Australia immediately after the Economic Summit in Tokyo on 28/29 June.

The Prime Minister has now been able to consider your letter and accepts Lord Carrington's recommendation. I should therefore be grateful if you would arrange for an approach to be made to the Australian Government to suggest that the Prime Minister might fly to Canberra from Tokyo overnight on 29/30 June and have talks with Mr. Fraser on 30 June/1 July. The timing of the Prime Minister's departure from Canberra to London should be left open for the time being: the Prime Minister may wish to reach London by the evening of 2 July rather than early in the morning of 3 July as suggested in the annex to your letter - I shall let you have the Prime Minister's final decision on this as soon as possible.

The main purpose of the Prime Minister's visit to Australia will, of course, be to give Mr. Fraser a first-hand account of the Tokyo Summit meeting. Briefing on other subjects will, however, of course be required and I should be grateful if this could reach me not later than 1700 on Thursday, 20 June.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin Vile in the Cabinet Office.

B. G. CARTLEDGE

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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DESKBY 021000Z

FM CANBERRA 020600Z JUN 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 270 OF 2 JUNE

INFO WASHINGTON, TOKYO.

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 197 (OF 1 JUNE)

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

*Ende no
GWR
4/6*

1. MR FRASER WILL BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE A VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE DATES PROPOSED. HE HAD BEEN ON THE POINT OF SUGGESTING IT HIMSELF. HE HAS A STATE PREMIERS' CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA ON 29 JUNE BUT THAT IS NO OBSTACLE TO TALKS ON 30 JUNE AND 1 JULY.
2. MR FRASER WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHEN YOU PROPOSE TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT. SO FAR AS THE AUSTRALIANS ARE CONCERNED, THE SOONER THE BETTER, PROVIDED THEY HAVE ENOUGH NOTICE TO PUT SOMETHING OUT HERE AT THE SAME TIME.
3. I WILL FORWARD A SUGGESTED OUTLINE PROGRAMME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE TRAVELLING BY RAF AIRCRAFT OR COMMERCIALY AND LATEST TIME OF DEPARTURE FROM CANBERRA WHEN KNOWN.
4. NEEDLESS TO SAY I AM DELIGHTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS MAKING THIS VISIT. IT WILL BE SEEN BY THE AUSTRALIANS AS A GREAT COMPLIMENT AND LANDMARK IN OUR RELATIONS AFTER SUCH A LONG GAP SINCE THE LAST VISIT BY A BRITISH PRIME MINISTER IN OFFICE.
5. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF MR VANCE ON EITHER SIDE.

TEBBIT

FILES

SAD

FED

HRGD

FRD

PEO

PS

PS/LAS

PS/MR HURD

PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/MR BLAKER

PS/MR MARTEN

PS/MR LUCE

SIR A DUFF

MR CORTAZZI

MR BUTLER

MR MURRAY

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~~PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST~~

PS/CABINET OFFICE