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PM TOURS ABROAD

June 1980

MR PATTISON

The Prime Minister's Visit to Greece and Yugoslavia
22nd-26th September

As you know, the Prime Minister is to pay an official visit to Greece and Yugoslavia from 22nd-24th September and from 24th to 26th September respectively.

GREECE

2. The invitation to visit Greece was conveyed to the Prime Minister by Mr Karamanlis (then Prime Minister, now President) during his visit to this country last autumn and was repeated by Prime Minister Rallis when he took office in May. This will be the first visit by a British Prime Minister to Greece since 1958. Mrs Thatcher was unable to attend the signature of the Treaty of Greek Accession to the European Community in Athens in May 1979, as she had only just taken office.

3. The visit will take place three months before Greece becomes a full member of the European Community. Its purpose is essentially political, reinforcing our traditional friendly relations with Greece and symbolising our welcome for her as a partner in the Community. But there will also be a significant commercial element, since it is hoped that a major contract for the supply of a coal-fired power station worth some £200 to £400 million will be signed during the visit. On this, however, difficult negotiations continue.

4. Among the political topics on which the Prime Minister will wish to exchange views with her Greek opposite number and with President Karamanlis, the most important is the problem of Greek reintegration into the military structure of NATO. It may prove difficult to avoid straying over from this into discussion of other problems of the Eastern Mediterranean.

YUGOSLAVIA

5. This will be the first visit by a British Prime Minister to Yugoslavia, apart from Mrs Thatcher's attendance at President Tito's funeral, and is in reply to a very long standing invitation. The purpose of the visit is to demonstrate the importance we continue to attach to Yugoslavia after Tito and our support for Yugoslavia's independence, and to consolidate relations with the new leadership. It will be one of the first visits by a Western leader to Yugoslavia since Tito's death in May.

6. I attach 7 Annexes as follows:

Visit to Greece -

- A British objectives
- B Presumed Greek objectives
- C Briefs

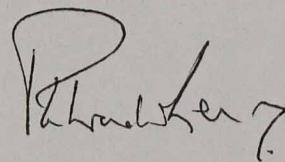
Visit to Yugoslavia -

- D British objectives
- E Presumed Yugoslav objectives
- F Briefs

Both Visits

- G Programme

7. I should be grateful if you could let me know whether the Prime Minister is content that preparations for the visit should proceed on the basis envisaged in these Annexes. If you can do that on Monday, we will arrange for the briefs to be submitted to you by 12th September.



29th August 1980

R L WADE-GERY