



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 February 1982

Mr. Kydd

Any comments on paras. 2 & 3?

A.F.C. 10.2

Ian Kydd has given

Dear John,

Prime Minister's Visit to Japan, China and Hong Kong

Thank you for your letter of 1 February. We have a few preliminary ideas.

There will certainly be requests from journalists to meet the Prime Minister before she leaves. These are already beginning to come in. It would therefore be as well to think of setting aside time for groups of Japanese and Chinese journalists. It would not really be possible to take the two groups at the same time. The exact form of these meetings could be decided later, but one possibility would be to invite each group to submit written questions and to prepare the answers in advance, the interview itself being largely confined to photographs and a few general comments. A further possibility would be an exclusive interview with the Prime Minister by one Japanese newspaper or television channel, and perhaps by a Chinese representative. There might also be pressure from Hong Kong journalists for an interview; this would be more difficult to handle because of the inevitable focus on the future of the territory.

There is also a select band of British journalists who are very knowledgeable about the Far East (for example Richard Harris of The Times). The Prime Minister might find it useful to set aside time for a brief meeting with a small group of them, perhaps over a drink, when they could talk generally about China and Japan. This could be a useful supplement to official briefing, but is a lower priority than interviews with overseas journalists.

/A relaxed

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



A relaxed meeting with a group of senior businessmen with Far Eastern (including Hong Kong) interests would be very well worthwhile. This could include representatives of the long-established Far Eastern trading houses, such as the Keswick family of Jardine Matheson, and John and Adrian Swire, together with Lord Nelson of the Sino-British Trade Council, Ian Donald of the Hong Kong Trade Advisory Group and one or two others on the Japan side. This might be best done over a meal.

As far as the Ambassadors are concerned, we are likely to recommend that the Prime Minister propose a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador, but not necessarily entertain him to a meal. However the Chinese Ambassador might well wish to invite the Prime Minister to a lunch or dinner before her departure. There is less call for a special meeting with the Japanese Ambassador, but here again he might well take the initiative in inviting the Prime Minister to a meal.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes Esq)
Private Secretary

10 FEB 1982
10 FEB 1982



BOR

PM. TOURS

file

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 February 1982

Prime Minister's Visit to Japan,
China and Hong Kong *advised*

It would help with forward diary planning here if you could let me have your preliminary thinking on any meals or meetings which you might wish to advise the Prime Minister to hold in this country in connection with the above trip. For example, would you wish to advise that before she leaves for her visits the Prime Minister should meet journalists concerned with Far Eastern affairs? Would there be any question of a reception or meal for British businessmen who trade with the area? Are you likely to advise any other engagements of this kind beyond the ordinary briefing meeting before departure?

You will recall correspondence (ending with Roderic Lyne's letter of 4 January to me) about the possibility of the Prime Minister entertaining the Chinese Ambassador before she goes to the Far East.

I should emphasise that I am not seeking formal advice for the time being, but merely preliminary indications which will enable us to make provision in the Prime Minister's programme.

A. J. COLES

F.N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET

Caroline

You asked about this. I suggest
you set aside time in the diary in
the first half of September for:-

- (a) a group of Japanese journalists
(45 mins)
- (b) a Chinese group (45 mins)
- (c) a Hong Kong group (30 mins)
- (d) an exclusive interview (30 mins
each) with a Japanese, Chinese
and Hong Kong media representative
- (e) if possible, a drink with a few
British journalists
- (f) a meal with British businessmen

/ with

with Far Eastern interests

(g) a meeting with the Chinese
Ambassador. ✓

2. We shall also need a 90 minute
bicycling session or perhaps 2 hours. ✓

3. This is a tall order. Pl. discuss if
you are horrified.

4. When will the P.R. be back here
after the summer holiday?

A.S.C. $\frac{11}{2}$

PRIME MINISTER

*On ICI advice I did not
put this in to P.M. But
please keep on file.*

es. rh

Far East Tour in September

It has been suggested that I set aside times in the diary for the first half of September for:-

- (a) a group of Japanese journalists (45 minutes).
- (b) a Chinese group (45 minutes).
- (c) a Hong Kong group (30 minutes).
- (d) an exclusive interview (30 minutes each) with a Japanese, Chinese and Hong Kong media representative.
- (e) if possible, a drink with a few British journalists.
- (f) a meal with British businessmen with Far Eastern interests.
- (g) a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador.
- (h) a briefing session (90 minutes or 2 hours).

As you know, we have to fit in a visit to Scotland and Balmoral before your departure.

As regards the above meetings, could you give me some indication as to whether you would like them spaced out, say, over a period of 2 weeks, or whether you would rather have the briefing meeting followed by all the other meetings over a short period of, say, 3 days.

es.

11 February, 1982.