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Mr Edmonds

Sir J Killick

MRS THATCHER'S VISIT TO NORTH AMERICA

1. At yesterday's meeting with Sir J Killick, it was agreed that I should speak to Sir P Ramsbotham and ask him to come into the office at the earliest convenient point between now and his return to Washington to discuss the presentational problems concerning Mrs Thatcher's visit to North America.
2. I spoke to Sir P Ramsbotham this morning. He was not planning to come into the office before 27 August, the day before his return to Washington. He said that he would of course come in if there was anything urgent to be discussed. But until 27 August he plans to remain in the West country where he is spending some time with his children and grandchildren. He clearly hoped that it would not be necessary to make a special visit.
3. I explained, in appropriately guarded terms, the area in which our preoccupations lay. Sir P Ramsbotham immediately took the point and said that after he had called on Mrs Thatcher, he had written to the Embassy to make clear that the arrangements for her visit should be correct but no more. She herself did not want a big splash.
4. In the light of this, I did not think there was any strong justification in asking him to come in earlier than he had originally intended. There would be little he could do in any case before going back to Washington, beyond what he had already done. I therefore made a provisional appointment with him for noon on 27 August. You have reminded me that you will be away at that time. If Sir J Killick is unable to see him, would you agree that it would be sufficient for me to do so?
5. I am submitting separately in the light of my talk with Mr Weston. He agreed that we should inform No 10.

Derek Thomas

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13 August 1975

P.S. 14 para 4 is agreed, perhaps Ottawa could be taken care of by a personal letter from me to Sir J. Johnston. *Derek Thomas*