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Government Hospitality
July 79



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal Minute

No. M7/79

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Government Hospitality Fund

On the basis of my experience so far, and particularly following my dinner for the President of Colombia on 3 July, I am not at all happy with the standard of catering and service provided by the Government Hospitality Fund. My office have corresponded with the Head of GHF about the problem but, although GHF have promised to do their best to achieve an improvement, I am not confident that this can be brought about merely by exhortation. I should like to be assured that GHF is being properly managed, that there is a proper willingness to innovate - for example in the employment of catering firms - and that, in general, the Government and the taxpayer are being given good value for money.

Not simply because GHF falls within your own area of responsibility but also because you are so well qualified by experience to appraise it with a critical eye, I should be grateful if you would take a close look at it and let me have a report in due course.

I am sending Peter Carrington a copy of this minute.

20 July 1979