

PRIME MINISTER

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Scottish Office.

cc: Mr. Ryder

VISIT TO THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

You agreed to pay an early visit to Scotland, primarily to help direct public attention to the amount of Scottish business which is actually handled by the Scottish Office from Edinburgh.

The earliest available date seems to be Wednesday 11 July. (At present, the Debate on the Repeal of the Wales Act is tentatively pencilled in for 11 July. You might want to be present for that, and you might also regard that as an unfortunate time to be seeking to turn public attention to Scotland, so planning would have to be subject to the confirmation of the Parliamentary timetable).

Mr. Younger has been considering what kind of programme might serve the purpose. His ideas are in the letter at Flag A, with a suggested itinerary (Flag B) and background notes on some of the proposed visits (Flag C).

Some alterations will be desirable, both for timetable and presentational reasons. We would recommend that you travel on the evening of Tuesday 10 July, but this will have to be after your Audience and your cocktail party for members' wives. There will therefore be no time for the entertainment proposed by Mr. Younger for the evening. On the Wednesday morning, the programme should start around 0800 if you are to cover a wide range of activities. You might like to take on both of the proposed factory visits, and to fit in as many of the other proposals as can be managed around those. The choice between fisheries and agriculture might depend on whether fisheries in the EEC context is unduly sensitive at that time. On the Scottish home affairs side, you already have a police engagement at Nottingham shortly: would you want to take on another one in Scotland or to visit a prison? Neither of the education choices sounds particularly inspiring, and that might be regarded as the most dispensable part of the programme.

/ Somewhere

Somewhere in the morning's programme a "walk about" should be fitted in.

Are you prepared to have a working lunch? If we do go for 11 July and you are unable to accept Mr. Younger's hospitality the previous evening, it would probably be difficult to turn down the lunch proposal.

In the afternoon, you could briefly visit some parts of St. Andrew's House, and then have a discussion with a cross-section of the office over tea. Representatives of the staff unions could be included there, but I think that we should avoid a separate special meeting with union representatives: there are still difficulties in the Scottish Office in the aftermath of the Civil Service industrial action earlier in the year.

We should aim to finish at St. Andrew's House a little earlier than proposed by Mr. Younger, to enable you to attend a party for Conservative workers, which could be arranged in a hotel near the airport. If this were to last from say, 1630 to 1800, we could then get you back to Downing Street no later than 2030, to allow you time to work on the papers for the Thursday Cabinet.

1. Are you content that your Scottish Office visit should follow these lines?
2. May we arrange this for 11 July, leaving London the previous evening, subject to the Parliamentary timetable?

M. A. PATTISON

12 June 1979