



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

b/f 9.7.79.

28 June 1979

Dear Sir,

Possible State Visit by President Suharto of Indonesia

Thank you for your letter of 19 June in which you conveyed the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's recommendation that the Palace should be advised that President Suharto of Indonesia should be invited to pay a State Visit to the UK from 13-16 November this year.

The Prime Minister has seen your letter and has noted the background to Lord Carrington's recommendation. The Prime Minister has asked, however, whether it is essential to go ahead with this invitation to President Suharto before the UN Conference on refugees which we hope will take place next month and before we know how the Indonesian Government is likely to respond to the possible wish of the UN to purchase from them an island which could be used as a staging post for Vietnamese refugees. President Suharto could be invited to make the State Visit, or not, in the light of developments on these fronts. I should be grateful for further advice.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,
John Carrington.*

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

Possible State Visit by President Suharto of
Indonesia

The FCO letter below conveys Lord Carrington's recommendation that the Palace should be advised to invite President Suharto to pay a **State Visit** from 13-16 November this year.

The timing is far from ideal. The visit will involve you in two state banquets and a No. 10 dinner, as well as talks, during a period of considerable Parliamentary activity (including the Rhodesia Sanctions Order). Moreover, President Tolbert of Liberia will be paying an official visit in the same month, but I have told the FCO that it must not be too close to President Suharto's. On balance, however, since this slot for a **State Visit** exists and is bound to be given to somebody, I think it would be difficult not to accept Lord Carrington's recommendation. Are you content that the Palace should be advised as he suggests?

25 June 1979

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(U.N.) D.T.