

PRIME MINISTER

You wanted to undertake a series of visits to Departments. Richard Ryder and I have been considering this alongside possible factory visits and political engagements around the country. I suggest below some dates which might be used for these purposes, with initial suggestions for each of them. I attach to this note some more detailed ideas.

Regional visits should be planned on a full day's programme wherever possible, preferably leaving London the previous night. Fridays are most likely to remain free of last minute Government business. For visits to headquarters of Departments in London, 2-2½ hours seems adequate drawing on the precedent of your visit to Energy.

Tentative dates:

- Friday 6 July : ✓ Factory visit in Cambridge ✓
before your CPC Summer School
- Wednesday 11 July : ✓ Visit to Edinburgh, to ✓
(Leaving London Tuesday night) include Scottish Office
and its activities, factory
visits, and meeting with
Party workers. (Separate
note submitted on this)
- Monday 23 July : ✓ Visit to a Department (?DHSS) ✓
(1100 - 1300)
- Late July : ✓ One-day visit to Polaris base
- Friday 31 August : ✓ Regional visit: perhaps to ✓
(leaving Thursday night) North West, including work of
the Departments of Environment
and Transport, factory visit
and political engagement.
- 4-8 September : ✓ Scottish visit - Orkney and ✓
Shetlands, energy matters and
Balmoral - already agreed.
- Friday 14 September : ✓ Regional visit - perhaps to ✓
West Country covering industrial
and political engagements

/22-30 September

- 22 - 30 September : Kept clear for overseas visit ✓
- Tuesday 2 October : Visit to a Department - ✓
(1100 - 1330) *Not August + early Sept* perhaps Department of Employment
- Friday 19 October : Regional visit, perhaps ✓
(leaving Thursday night) Cardiff, to cover Welsh Office, local industry and political engagements.
- Monday 29 October : Visit to a Department - ✓
(1100 - 1330) perhaps Industry.
- Friday 2 November : Regional visit covering ✓
(leaving Thursday night) industrial and political engagements - North East or East Anglia?
- Monday 26 November : Visit to a Department - ✓
(1100 - 1330) perhaps DES
- Friday 14 December : Regional visit - perhaps
(leaving Thursday night) East Anglia or North East

Arrangements for a visit to Northern Ireland would come into a separate category and this will no doubt be proposed as and when it seems appropriate. This list of suggestions does not give special attention to the work of the Department of Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture, both of which will need to be kept in mind, nor the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence, and Treasury, which can perhaps be left for the time being as you have regular dealings with their business here at No. 10. (Defence would have been covered in part by the Polaris Base visit.) You might also want to have meetings with the senior staff at Transport and Environment after looking at them on the basis of their regional organisation in the North West.

Civil Service Dept

Flag A provides Mr. Edwards' suggestions for a Cardiff visit, suggested above for 19 October. Flag B shows how you might look at the Department of the Environment's activities in the North West - suggested for 31 August. Flag C suggests a selection of companies in different regions which might be suitable for visits. These could all be worked into a programme like the one outlined above.

/Should we now

Should we now plan visits on this timetable in more detail, subject to the intervention of urgent Government business, or would you like to discuss the options before we take this further?

Yes please
no.

MAO

12 June 1979