



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 August 1981

Agreed - Paul Stiller  
 if we are in the middle of  
 such a state, Prime Minister

If you are content to accept Mr Ramphal's  
 invitations, there is a letter at A for you  
 to send to him.

WP81  
 18/8

Dear Michael,

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting,  
Melbourne

In your letter of 12 August you asked for advice on the Commonwealth Secretary-General's letter of 11 August inviting the Prime Minister to respond to the Australian Prime Minister's address of welcome at the formal opening session of the CHGM, and also to lead the discussion, with Mrs Gandhi, on item 3(a) of the CHGM agenda "World Political Scene: Global Trends and Prospects".

We recommend that the Prime Minister accept both invitations. She will recall that she was similarly invited to be one of the heads of government responding to President Kaunda's address of welcome at the opening session of the 1979 CHGM in Lusaka - something which the Prime Minister was able to turn to advantage. It is noteworthy that Mr Ramphal should have asked the Prime Minister to speak again this year in the opening session, when it is arguably someone else's turn, and also to introduce the main political discussion. It may be that the two invitations owe something to Mr Fraser's influence, reflecting his respect for the Prime Minister. It is also possible that Mr Ramphal hopes that the Prime Minister may be able to take some of the heat out of the present differences, over the Gleneagles Agreement, between Mr Muldoon and other Commonwealth members. Be that as it may, the two speeches should together provide an excellent opportunity for the Prime Minister to put across British views not only to fellow heads of government but also - since the opening ceremony will be covered by press and television - to the Australian and wider international public.

In considering Mr Ramphal's request the Prime Minister might wish to know that Mr Ramphal has told us that he plans to invite Mr Lee Kuan Yew to lead on item 3(b) 'Developments in Asia'; President Shagari to lead on item 3(c) 'Southern Africa'; and Mr Trudeau on item 4, the 'World Economic Situation'. We

/do not





do not know which other heads of government are being invited to contribute to the opening session, but there are likely to be three others, covering a cross-section of the Commonwealth.

*at B*

You also ask for advice on Mr Ramphal's circular letter of 10 August on the CHGM agenda. The Prime Minister has already commented in some detail (in her letter of 31 July) on Mr Ramphal's original circular of 27 May and we do not think there is any need for her now to do more than acknowledge this second letter.

*Yours ever,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Francis Richards'.

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street