

Prime Minister

Content with this very comprehensive list of briefs? I don't imagine you will have to read them all: a large number are being prepared as a contingency.

WM
25/8

Yes - omit Middle East Ken-Rep.
M

Ref: A05453

MR RICKETT

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 30 September - 7 October 1981: List of Briefs

I am enclosing, at Annex A, a list of briefs for this year's CHOGM. It has been prepared on the basis of the annotated agenda for the meeting, which has issued under cover of the Commonwealth Secretary General's circular letter of 10 August (copy enclosed) and has been cleared as necessary within Whitehall.

2. The traditional format for the list has been retained with four categories of briefs: A - prepared statements; B - briefs for Ministerial use at the Meeting; C - briefs for bilateral and group discussions; and D - background briefs intended for the use of officials. The list is inevitably a formidable one but efforts have been made to avoid duplication and over-briefing. The total number of briefs (82) is virtually the same as for the 1979 CHOGM in Lusaka. The number reflects -

(at least half are being prepared more on a contingency basis than in the expectation that you will need definitely to read them.)

WM
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a. the fact that the meeting will extend over 8 days and can be expected to cover a lot of ground;

b. the fact that the Committee of the Whole will be sitting simultaneously and taking some subjects remitted directly to them;

c. the expected presence of representatives of up to 41 other Commonwealth countries, with many of whom the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary may have some bilateral discussion; and

d. the proliferation of subjects of Commonwealth interest or concern in recent years.



3. I understand that the Prime Minister has agreed to Mr Ramphal's invitation to respond to Mr Fraser's address of welcome and to lead, with Mrs Gandhi, the discussion on agenda item 3(a) "World Political Scene; Global Trends and Prospects". The first two briefs in Category A reflect this. The remaining statements are suggested against the likelihood that the Prime Minister may wish to make some general remarks when she first speaks on those items.

4. I do not think the briefs proposed in categories B, C and D need explanation except to comment that it would be possible to omit, under Section B, briefs on the Middle East and Iran (including the Iran-Iraq war) on the understanding that these topics are covered very fully in the briefing being prepared for the Prime Minister's visit to the Gulf.

On the other hand the Prime Minister may prefer to have the CHOGM set complete and self-contained. In general the headings proposed by the Commonwealth Secretariat have been followed. Some of the briefs will be wide in scope (eg that on Arms Control, Disarmament and Indian Ocean Matters).

5. The preparation of briefs will be co-ordinated as usual by the Cabinet Office and it has been agreed that the deadline for briefs to reach the Cabinet Office should be close of play on Wednesday 16 September.

Antony

Antony Duff

25 August 1981

Antony
 This seems sensible
 Can take the brief with you