



Prime Minister to see

Peter Ervine
Duty Clerk 16/2

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 February 1982

Dear John,

Visit by President Vigdis Finnbogadottir of Iceland:
17-19 February

Before her meeting with the Icelandic President tomorrow, the Prime Minister will wish to be aware that The Queen will be awarding an honorary GCMG to President Vigdis during her call at the Palace on Thursday 18 February.

The Prime Minister may also welcome some further biographical details which have come to light since my last letter.

Firstly, we understand that the President made legal history in Iceland when after a long legal battle she was allowed to adopt a daughter, Astridur, although she was a single parent and a divorcee.

Secondly, we have discovered more about Vigdis's French connections. She has studied French language and literature at the Sorbonne and the University of Grenoble where she also specialised in drama. She later went on to study French philology in Sweden. In 1970 Vigdis took a sabbatical and went to France where she studied communications and cultural relations between Icelanders and Frenchmen during the great French Schooner era in the 19th century, when French schooners fished Icelandic waters extensively.

On her return to Iceland Vigdis taught French both in Reykjavik High School and on television. She went on to teach French drama at Reykjavik University before taking up the post of director of the Reykjavik Theatre Company, the first woman to hold this post.

President Vigdis is greatly interested in the history and culture of Iceland and was a summertime tour guide for foreign visitors for a number of years.

President Vigdis also claims descent from an Irish princess captured by Viking raiders.

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



SPEAKING NOTES

FOR

VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF ICELAND (PRESIDENT VIGDIS)

MADAM PRESIDENT,

WE WERE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU IN LONDON LAST JULY FOR
THE WEDDING OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.
BUT YOUR VISIT THIS WEEK IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL
ONE BY AN ICELANDIC HEAD OF STATE TO BRITAIN
SINCE 1963.

FAR TOO LONG A GAP.

AS THE FIRST WOMAN PRIME MINISTER OF THIS COUNTRY, IT
GIVES ME SPECIAL PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU -
THE ONLY DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED WOMAN HEAD OF
STATE IN THE WORLD.

/ BUT THEN,

BUT THEN, ICELAND HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PIONEER OF DEMOCRACY.

YOUR PARLIAMENT, THE ALTHING, HAD BEEN SITTING
FOR CENTURIES BEFORE OUR OWN MOTHER OF
PARLIAMENTS FIRST MET.

WOMEN IN ICELAND GAINED THE VOTE SOME TEN YEARS
BEFORE THEIR COUNTERPARTS HERE.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE LINKED BY HISTORY, TRADE, TOURISM
AND POLITICAL IDEALS.

THE ICELANDIC/VIKING CONTRIBUTION TO BRITISH HISTORY AND
CULTURE IS WELL DOCUMENTED.

IT WAS THE SUBJECT LAST YEAR BOTH OF AN
EXHIBITION AND OF LIVELY CONTROVERSY IN THE
COLUMNS OF THE TIMES:

/ WERE THE

WERE THE VIKINGS GREAT SAINTS OR GREAT
SINNERS?

WHATEVER YOUR ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, WE CAN ALL AGREE
THAT THE ICELANDERS WERE GREAT POETS,
THE SAGAS ARE AMONG THE GREAT MONUMENTS OF
EUROPEAN CIVILISATION.

WE HAVE BEEN ONE OF YOUR THREE MOST IMPORTANT TRADING
PARTNERS FOR MANY YEARS.

AND LOOKING BACK, WE SHALL NEVER FORGET THAT
DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR ICELAND PLAYED A
VITAL PART IN HELPING TO KEEP THE SEA LANES
OPEN AND THE UK SUPPLIED WITH FISH.

MANY ICELANDERS LOST THEIR LIVES DOING SO.

/ I LIKE

I LIKE TO THINK THAT BRITAIN STOOD AS GODPARENT AT THE
BIRTH OF THE REPUBLIC IN 1944 - WHEN WE SENT
TROOPS TO PREVENT A GERMAN INVASION.

YOUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN GOOD ENOUGH NOT TO HOLD THIS
OCCUPATION AGAINST US.

YOU NOW WELCOME BRITISH TRAVELLERS IN
INCREASING NUMBERS.

ATTRACTED BY YOUR SCENERY, BIRD-LIFE AND
SALMON FISHING.

AMONG THEM, THE PRINCE OF WALES, THE FIRST
ROYAL VISITOR TO CALL ON YOU IN 1980 AFTER
YOUR INAUGURATION.

/ BRITAIN

BRITAIN GREATLY VALUES THE ICELANDIC CONTRIBUTION TO

THE SECURITY OF THE WESTERN COMMUNITY.

ICELAND HAS ACCEPTED THE RESPONSIBILITY

IMPOSED BY HER CRUCIAL GEO-STRATEGIC

POSITION AND HAS PROVED A KEY MEMBER OF THE

NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

WE AND YOU SHARE THE SAME VALUES AND IDEALS

AND PURSUE THE SAME OBJECTIVES:

WORLD PEACE, THE RULE OF LAW AND

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COOPERATION.

AS YOU YOURSELF SAID, MADAM PRESIDENT, IN YOUR

INAUGURATION SPEECH:

/ "WE ARE ALL,

"WE ARE ALL, AS CITIZENS OF THE WORLD,
DUTY BOUND TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR UTMOST
ABILITY TO THE CONTINUING PROGRESS OF
THE SPIRIT OF HUMANITY".

D. K. Clark

LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING THE LUNCHEON TO BE GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR. DENIS THATCHER IN HONOUR OF HER EXCELLENCY VIGDIS FINNBOGADOTTIR PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND ON WEDNESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 1982 AT 1.00 PM FOR 1.15 PM

The Prime Minister
and Mr. Denis Thatcher

Miss Carol Thatcher

Her Excellency Vigdis Finnbogadottir

His Excellency Dr. Ólafur Jóhannesson
and Mrs. Jóhannesson Minister for Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Ambassador Hordur Helgason Permanent Under Secretary for
and Mrs. Helgason Foreign Affairs

His Excellency the Icelandic Ambassador
and Mrs. Bjarnason

His Excellency Ambassador Ólafur Egilsson Private Secretary
and Mrs. Egilsson

HM Government

Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington
and Lady Carrington

Rt. Hon. George Younger, MP
and Mrs. Younger

Labour Party

Mr. James Johnson, MP Chairman, British Icelandic
and Mrs. Johnson Parliamentary Group

Liberal Party

Rt. Hon. Jo Grimond, MP
and Mrs. Grimond

SDP

Mr. Richard Crawshaw, MP
and Mrs. Crawshaw

Conservative Party

Sir Walter Clegg, MP Member, British Icelandic
and Lady Clegg Parliamentary Group

Business and Industry

Mr. David Aylesbury Managing Director, Racal
and Mrs. Aylesbury Decca Navigator, Ltd.

Mr. Philip Shelbourne Chairman, BNOC.

Mr. T.W. Bewsey Director, British Marine
and Mrs. Bewsey Equipment Council

Media

Mr. Magnus Magnusson
and Mrs. Magnusson

Journalist and TV presenter.
Perhaps the best known member of the
Icelandic community in the
United Kingdom

Mr. Ferdinand Mount

The Spectator

Mr. Charles Douglas-Home
and Mrs. Douglas-Home

Foreign Editor, The Times

Others

Mr. Jon Sigurjonsson
and Mrs. Sigurjonsson

Chairman of the Anglo-Icelandic
Society

Dr. David Wilson
and Mrs. Wilson

Director, British Museum. Will be
meeting the President when she
tours the Museum after the lunch.
Organised 'The Vikings in Britain'
exhibition

Mr. Peter Ustinov
and Mrs. Ustinov

A regular visitor to Iceland

Dr. David Bellamy
and Mrs. Bellamy

Botanist writer and journalist
has visited Iceland on a number of
occasions

Mr. Ian Presst
and Mrs. Presst

Director of Royal Society for the
Protection of Birds. Interested
in Iceland as many of their birds
winter here.

Officials

Mr. Robin Ibbs
and Mrs. Ibbs

Central Policy Review Staff

Mr. Julian Bullard

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

10 Downing Street

Mr. John Coles

PRIME MINISTER

Visit by President of Iceland

She is called simply President Vigdis.

You agreed earlier that the talks would be tete-a-tete, with Private Secretaries present, from noon until 1230.

I suggest that you may then care to join the two Foreign Ministers in the White Drawing Room for a further half hour of talks. These will be attended by:

Lord Carrington
Dr. Johannesson (Foreign Minister)
Mr. Bjarnason (Ambassador in London)
and
Mr. Gladstone (FCO).

I attach some speaking notes, since I imagine you will wish to make a short, informal speech after lunch.

A. S. C. ^{16.}/₂

P.S. I have just heard that the Queen will give President Vigdis a G.C.B.G. on Thursday.

16 February, 1982

SPEAKING NOTES

Madam President,

We were delighted to welcome you in London last
① July for the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales.
But your visit this week is the first official one by an
② Icelandic Head of State to Britain since 1963. Far too long
a gap. 19 years.

As the first woman Prime Minister of this country, it
gives me special pleasure to welcome you - the only democratically
elected woman Head of State in the world. (Now, obviously
Nella)

③ But then, Iceland has always been a pioneer of democracy.
Your Parliament, the Althing, had been sitting for centuries
before our own mother of Parliaments first met. Women in
Iceland gained the vote some ten years before their counterparts
here.

Our two countries are linked by history, trade, tourism
and political ideals.

④ The Icelandic/Viking contribution to British history and
culture is well documented. It was the subject last year both
of an exhibition and of lively controversy: in the columns of the Times
were the Vikings
great saints or great sinners?

/Whatever

Whatever your answer to that question, we can all agree that the Icelanders were great poets. The Sagas are among the great monuments of European civilisation.

(8) We have been one of your three most important trading partners for many years. And looking back, we shall never forget that during the Second World War Iceland played a vital part in helping to keep the sea lanes open and the UK supplied with fish. Many Icelanders lost their lives doing so.

(6) I like to think that Britain stood as godparent at the birth of the Republic in 1944 - when we sent troops to prevent a German invasion. Your country has been good enough not to hold this occupation against us.

You now welcome British travellers in increasing numbers. Attracted by your scenery, bird-life and salmon fishing. Among them, the Prince of Wales, the first royal visitor to call on you in 1980 after your inauguration.

(7) Britain greatly values the Icelandic contribution to the security of the Western community. Iceland has accepted the responsibility imposed by her crucial geo-strategic position and has proved a key member of the North Atlantic Alliance. We and you share the same values and ideals and pursue the same objectives:

/World peace

World peace, the rule of law and international trade and co-operation.

As you yourself said, Madam President, in your inauguration speech:

"We are all, as citizens of the world, duty bound to contributing to our utmost ability to the continuing progress of the spirit of humanity".



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 February 1982

Dear John,

Visit by President Vigdis Finnbogadottir of Iceland

President Vigdis is visiting the UK from 16 to 19 February as a guest of Her Majesty's Government. This is the first official visit by an Icelandic President since the State Visit of President Asgeirsson in November 1963 (although President Eldjarn visited the Isle of Man in 1979 for the Millennium celebrations and President Vigdis herself attended the Royal Wedding).

The Cod War has passed into history and Anglo-Icelandic relations have returned to normal. The purpose of this visit therefore, both from our own and the Icelandic point of view, is to underline this fact. In addition we want to bring Iceland to the notice of the general business public as trade with Iceland has shown an overall decline over the last few years (see Brief No 3).

The President will be accompanied by the Icelandic Foreign Minister Dr Johannesson who will have talks with Lord Carrington in the FCO before joining the Prime Minister and President Vigdis.

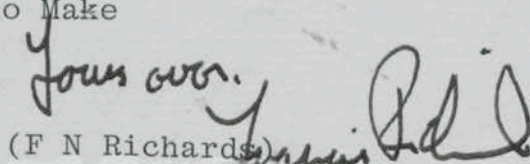
There are no fixed agendas for either meeting. However, we understand that the President is likely to be interested in discussing Education (see Brief No 1A), Equal Opportunities, Conservation of the Environment (see Brief No 1C) and Inflation (see Brief No 2C). As a non-executive Head of State, President Vigdis prefers to avoid substantive discussion of major political issues.

Our main objective in both talks will nevertheless be to encourage the Icelanders to continue to adopt the robust stand they have taken on recent world events and especially Poland (see Brief No 2B). Iceland's geo-strategic position is of crucial importance to NATO, but her political system and a national inclination to isolationism mean that she cannot be taken for granted.

For the Prime Minister's talks I attach the following Annexes:

- (a) Programme
- (b) Draft Speech
- (c) Personality Notes
- (d) List of Briefs
- (e) Check-list of Points to Make
- (f) Briefing Pack 1-3

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St

Yours over,

 (F N Richards)
 Private Secretary

8/200
204

VISIT OF HER EXCELLENCY VIGDIS FINNBOGADOTTIR, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND

16 - 21 FEBRUARY 1982

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

(to be read in conjunction with the programme)

TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY

- 1010 Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs arrives at London Heathrow Airport Brabazon VIP Lounge.
- 1020 His Excellency Ambassador Sigurdur Bjarnason and Mrs Bjarnason arrive at London Heathrow Airport, Brabazon VIP Lounge.
- 1030 The Lord Skelmersdale, Lord in Waiting to Her Majesty The Queen arrives at London Heathrow Airport, Brabazon VIP Lounge.

As soon as the aircraft has landed a representative of the British Airports Authority will escort the greeting party from the VIP lounge to the bottom of the aircraft steps. The Icelandic Ambassador will board the aircraft and accompany the President to the tarmac where he will present the following (in order):

The Lord Skelmersdale, Lord in Waiting to Her Majesty The Queen.

Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Mrs Bjarnason

Mr D A S Gladstone, Western European Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Brigadier J A C Cowan, Secretary, Government Hospitality Fund

The Hon Diana Makgill, Lady Ceremonial Officer

Mr Neville Coppel, Escort Officer, Government Hospitality Fund

The party will proceed to the VIP lounge where the Icelandic Ambassador will present the members of the official suite.

Transport

Cars are provided for the official suite throughout the period of the visit as indicated in Annex 1.

/WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY

Call by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

The following will also be present:

ICELAND

His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson
His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason
His Excellency Ambassador Sigurdur Bjarnason
His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson

UNITED KINGDOM

Private Secretary
Mr D A S Gladstone

Call by Secretary of State for Trade

The following will also be present:

ICELAND

His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson
His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason
His Excellency Ambassador Sigurdur Bjarnason
His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson

UNITED KINGDOM

Private Secretary
Mr D A S Gladstone

Ambassador S Bjarnason and Mr D A S Gladstone will be present at the talks at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Talks with the Prime Minister

The Private Secretaries of the President and the Prime Minister will be present at the Tête-à-tête Talks. At 1230 they will be joined as indicated in the programme;

Ambassador S Bjarnason
Mr D A S Gladstone

will also be present.

/Luncheon

Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government

The following are also invited:

His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson and Mrs Johannesson
His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason and Mrs Helgason
His Excellency Ambassador Sigurdur Bjarnason and Mrs Bjarnason
His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson and Mrs Egilsson

Visit to the British Museum

The following will accompany the President:

His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson and Mrs Johannesson
His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason and Mrs Helgason
His Excellency Ambassador Sigurdur Bjarnason and Mrs Bjarnason
His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson and Mrs Egilsson
Mr D A S Gladstone and Mrs Gladstone

Tour of the National Theatre and theatre/supper party

The following will accompany the President:

His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson and Mrs Johannesson
His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason and Mrs Helgason
His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson and Mrs Egilsson
Mr D A S Gladstone and Mrs Gladstone

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Visit to Pimlico School

The following will accompany the President:

His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson and Mrs Johannesson
His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason and Mrs Helgason
His Excellency Ambassador Sigurdur Bjarnason and Mrs Bjarnason
His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson and Mrs Egilsson
Mr D A S Gladstone and Mrs Gladstone

The programme at the school includes visits to the Fifth year chemistry class, First year integrated science class and First year mathematics class. After coffee with the Headmaster, other senior members of the staff, senior officials of the Inner London Education Authority and a boy and girl from both the first and sixth years, the President and her party will see examples of art produced by pupils at the school. The final twenty minutes of the programme will be with musicians for which the school is particularly noted.

/Luncheon

Luncheon with Her Majesty The Queen

The following are also invited:

His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson and Mrs Johannesson

His Excellency Ambassador Sigurdur Bjarnason and Mrs Bjarnason

Visit to the House of Commons, Dinner given by the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London

The following are also invited:

His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson and Mrs Johannesson

His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason and Mrs Helgason

His Excellency Ambassador Sigurdur Bjarnason and Mrs Bjarnason

His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson and Mrs Egilsson

Mr D A S Gladstone and Mrs Gladstone

FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY

Visit to Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon

The following will accompany the President:

His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson and Mrs Johannesson

His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason and Mrs Helgason

His Excellency Ambassador Sigurdur Bjarnason and Mrs Bjarnason
(Oxford only)

His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson and Mrs Egilsson

Mr D A S Gladstone

Jane H. W. Reid

10 February 1982

J H W Reid (Miss)
Visits Section
Protocol and Conference Department
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

C A R P L A NTuesday 16 FebruaryLondon Heathrow Airport to Hyde Park Hotel

Car 1 Her Excellency the President
 His Excellency Sigurdur Bjarnason
 The Hon Diana Makgill
 Security Officer

Car 2 His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson
 Mrs Johannesson
 Mrs Bjarnason
 Mr Neville Coppel
 Security Officer

Car 3 His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason
 Mrs Helgason
 Mr W R McQuillan
 Mrs McQuillan

Car 4 His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson
 Mrs Egilsson

Wednesday 17 FebruaryHotel to Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Car 2 His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson
 Ambassador S Bjarnason
 Mr D A S Gladstone
 Group Captain A O'Neill

Hotel to 10 Downing Street (at 1145 hours)

Car 1 Her Excellency the President
 His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson
 The Hon Diana Makgill
 Mr Neville Coppel
 Security Officer

Hotel to 10 Downing Street (at 1245 hours)

Car 3 His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason
 Mrs Johannesson
 Mrs Helgason
 Mrs Egilsson

10 Downing Street to British Museum; British Museum to Hotel

Car 1 Her Excellency the President
Dr D M Wilson (to British Museum only)
The Hon Diana Makgill
Security Officer

Car 2 His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson
Mrs Johannesson
Mr Neville Coppel
Security Officer

Car 3 His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason
Mrs Helgason
Mr D A S Gladstone
Mrs Gladstone

Car 4 His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson
Mrs Egilsson

Hotel to National Theatre, Savoy Hotel and return to Hotel

Car 1 Her Excellency the President
The Hon Diana Makgill
Mr Neville Coppel
Security Officer

Car 2 His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson
Mrs Johannesson
Security Officer

Car 3 His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason
Mrs Helgason
Mr D A S Gladstone } Savoy to FCO
Mrs Gladstone }

Car 4 His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson
Mrs Egilsson

Thursday 18 February

Hotel to Pimlico School and return to Hotel

Car 1 Her Excellency the President
The Hon Diana Makgill
Mr Neville Coppel
Security Officer

Car 2 His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson
Mrs Johannesson
Security Officer

Car 3 His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason
Mrs Helgason
Mr D A S Gladstone } outward journey only
Mrs Gladstone }

Car 4 His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson
Mrs Egilsson

Hotel to Buckingham Palace, Buckingham Palace to House of Commons and
return to Hotel

Car 1 Her Excellency the President
The Hon Diana Makgill
Mr Neville Coppel
Security Officer

Car 2 His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson
Mrs Johannesson
Security Officer

Hotel to House of Commons and return to Hotel

Car 4 His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason
Mrs Helgason
His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson
Mrs Egilsson

Hotel to Mansion House and return to Hotel

Car 1 Her Excellency the President
The Hon Diana Makgill
Mr Neville Coppel
Security Officer

Car 2 His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson
Mrs Johannesson
Security Officer

Car 3 His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason
Mrs Helgason

Car 4 His Excellency Ambassador Olafur Egilsson
Mrs Egilsson

Friday 19 February

Hotel to Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon and return to London

Car 1 Her Excellency the President
The Hon Diana Makgill
Mr Neville Coppel
Security Officer

Car 2 His Excellency Dr Olafur Johannesson
Mrs Johannesson
Security Officer

Car 3 His Excellency Ambassador Hoerdur Helgason
Mrs Helgason
Mr D A S Gladstone

Car 4

His Excellency Ambassaodr Olafur Egilsson
Mrs Egilsson

NOTE: The Lord Lieutenant of the County of Oxfordshire, Sir Ashley Ponsonby will travel with the President from the John Radcliffe Maternity Hospital to the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, thence to Green College. During this time Mr Coppel will travel in Car 2.

Sunday 21 February

Hotel to London Heathrow Airport

as on inward journey

DISTRIBUTION

Buckingham Palace

Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen (2)
Press Office (2)

10 Downing Street

Private Secretary (2)
Press Officer (2)

Icelandic Embassy (10)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Private Secretary (2)
Private Secretary/Lord Privy Seal (2)
Private Secretary/Permanent Under Secretary (2)
Mr J L Bullard
Mr A C Goodison
Mr D A S Gladstone (2)
WED (Mr Duncan) (6)
News Department (Mr Hannaby) (3)
Resident Clerk
Miss Lothian
PCD (6)

Medical Advisory Service

Dr Semmence (2)

Ministry of Defence

Major B Cockroft (2)

Department of Trade

Private Secretary (2)
Mr R Devonshire, Exports to Europe Branch (1 Victoria St R 362)

Government Hospitality Fund

Department of Education and Science

Private Secretary/Minister for the Arts (2)
Miss Carpenter

Mr G W Woodward, Inner London Education Authority

Chief Supt G Brown (4)
Thames Valley Police Headquarters



13 FEB 1982



VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND

HER EXCELLENCY VIGDIS FINNBOGADOTTIR

17-19 FEBRUARY 1982

P R O G R A M M E

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<u>Tuesday 16 February</u>		
1200	Arrival at London Heathrow Flight FI 432. Brabazon VIP Suite. Cermonial Guard Proceed to Hyde Park Hotel No official engagements Interview with 'Womens Hour' BBC, and 'Afternoon Plus' ITV	Met by Lord Skelmers- dale, Sir Edwin Arrowsmith
<u>Wednesday 17 February</u>		
1000	Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will call on the President at the Hotel	
1030	Secretary of State for Trade will call on the President at the Hotel	
1100	Meeting with Rescue Team at Hyde Park Hotel	
1145-1230	Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will have talks with Dr Johannesson	
1200	Prime Minister and President will have talks 10 Downing Street Private Secretaries only	
1235	Lord Carrington and Dr Johannesson will join the Prime Minister and President	
1300 for 1315	Luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street	



1500-1600 Visit to British Museum

1815 Tour of National Theatre accompanied
by Mr P Channon, Minister for the
Arts followed by Theatre/Supper
evening 'On the Razzle'
Lyttleton Theatre

Supper at Savoy Grill

Thursday 18 February

1000-1130 Visit to Pimlico School
Lupus Street

1300 Arrive Grand Entrance

Luncheon with The Queen at
Buckingham Palace

1515 Arrive Member's Entrance,
House of Commons, met by
James Johnson MP, Chairman
of the Anglo-Icelandic Parliamentary
Group

Tea with British-Icelandic Group

1900 for 1930 Dinner given by the Corporation
of London at Mansion House

Friday 19 February

0830 Depart Hotel for Oxford

10 00 Visit to Radcliffe Infirmary

Coffee

10 20-1050 Visit Specialised Baby-Care Unit

1105-1135 Visit Orthopaedic Engineering Unit

1115 for 1215 Lunch at Green College, Oxford
University, hosted by Sir Richard Doll
and Lady Doll

1315 Depart Oxford

1430 Arrive Stratford-on-Avon
Tour of Royal Shakespeare Company
premises

Tea



1600

Depart Stratford-on-Avon

1830

Arrive London

Sunday 21 February

1500

Depart on flight FI 205, Kingsford-
Smith Suite

Notes for Speech

DSR 11C

~~Delighted to welcome President Vigdis here today. Though~~
~~the President~~ ^{Vigdis} attended the wedding of the Prince and Princess
of Wales last July, ^{but} her visit this week is the first official
visit by an Icelandic Head of State to Britain since 1963.
Far too long a gap, glad we are now making up for it. ~~It~~
~~gives me~~ ^{it gives me} ~~As~~ the first woman Prime Minister of this country,
^h special pleasure to welcome President Vigdis as the only
democratically elected woman Head of State in the world.

~~That is a notable achievement. It is also evidence that~~
~~Iceland has always been a pioneer of democracy. Your Parlia-~~
~~ment, the Althing, had been sitting for centuries before our~~
~~own Mother of Parliaments first met. Icelandic woman gained~~
~~the vote some 10 years before woman in the UK. Britain has~~
~~been glad to learn from your example.~~

We are linked by history, trade, tourism and political ideals.

~~Histories of our two countries are closely intertwined.~~

~~Icelandic/Viking contribution to British history and~~
~~Culture is well documented, and a subject last year both of~~

~~an exhibition and of lively controversy: were the Vikings~~
~~great saints or great sinners? All agreed that they~~
~~(Icelanders) were great poets. Sagas have enriched all our~~
~~lives; among great monuments of European civilisation.~~

~~Recent excavations in York have added to our knowledge of~~
~~everyday Viking life in Britain. Understand President Vigdis~~
~~is the official Icelandic patron of the Jorvik Trust.~~

~~[The Jorvik/York Archaeological Trust sponsored the excavation~~
~~at the Coppergate in York since 1976.]~~

Whatever you
 answer to that
 question we can
 all agree that
 the Icelanders



geo-strategic position and has proved a key member of the Atlantic Alliance. Britian and Iceland share the same values and ideals and pursue the same objectives: world peace, the rule of law and international trade and cooperation. As you yourself have nobly said, Madam President, 'We are all of us citizens of the world . . . duty bound to contribute . . . to our . . . utmost ability to the continuing progress of the spirit of humanity.' [~~President Vigdis's inauguration speech~~].

In conclusion, honoured to have had the opportunity to talk to you today. Your visit underlines and has served to strengthen the traditional warm friendship which exists between our twocountries. I am confident that the friendship can only deepen still further in the years to come.

in view
:inauguration speech

Our ancestors were well acquainted with the land of fire and ice. One of Drake's fire ships sent against the Spanish Armada at Cadiz was named after your volcano Hekla, still giving a good account of herself last year. In the mid-19th century Iceland rediscovered by Western Europe and North America. We shall never forget that during the second World War Iceland played a vital part in helping to keep the sea lanes open and the UK supplied with fish. Many Icelanders lost their lives.

Like to think that Britain stood godparent at the birth of the Republic [in 1944] ^{when we} - Actually ^{we} sent troops to prevent German invasion. ^{your country has been good enough} Glad to see that Icelanders have not ^{to} held ^{the} our 'occupation' against us ^{you now} and welcome British travellers in increasing numbers. Attracted by scenery, bird life and salmon fishing. Among them the Prince of Wales, the first Royal visitor to call on you in 1980 after your inauguration. Appropriate, since I know that one of your shared concerns is the conservation of the environment.

~~Tourism remind me that Iceland has many and varied commercial~~
~~links~~ ^{to} with Britain. We have been one of your 3 most important trading partners for many years. ~~Samband,~~ your unique Federation of Cooperative Societies, has had an office in the UK for more than 60 years. [(Subject to final Guest List) and I am pleased to welcome here ^{today} tonight Mr Sigurdsson, Director of Samband UK (Reserve for No 35, 36 ~~on draft list~~)]. Britain greatly values Icelandic contribution to strength of Western community. Iceland has accepted the responsibility imposed by her crucial

Delighted to welcome President Vigdis here today. Though the President attended the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales last July, her visit this week is the first official visit by an Icelandic Head of State to Britain since 1963. Far too long a gap; glad we are now making up for it. It gives me, as the first woman Prime Minister of this country, especial pleasure to welcome President Vigdis as the only democratically elected woman Head of State in the world.

That is a notable achievement. It is also evidence that Iceland has always been a pioneer of democracy. Your Parliament, the Althing, had been sitting for centuries before our own Mother of Parliaments first met. Icelandic woman gained the vote some 10 years before woman in the UK. Britain has been glad to learn from your example.

Histories of our two countries are closely intertwined. Icelandic/Viking contribution to British history and culture is well documented, and a subject last year both of an exhibition and of lively controversy: were the Vikings great saints or great sinners? All agreed that they (Icelanders) were great poets. Sages have enriched all our lives: among great monuments of European civilisation. Recent excavations in York have added to our knowledge of everyday Viking life in Britain. Understand President Vigdis is the official Icelandic patron of the Jorvik Trust. [The Jorvik/York Archaeological Trust sponsored the excavation at the Coppergate in York since 1976.]

Our ancestors were well acquainted with the land of fire and ice. One of Drake's fire ships sent against the Spanish Armada at Cadiz was named after your volcano Hekla, still giving a good account of herself last year. In the mid-19th century Iceland rediscovered by Western Europe and North America. We shall never forget that during the second World War Iceland played a vital part in helping to keep the sea lanes open and the UK supplied with fish. Many Icelanders lost their lives.

Like to think that Britain stood godparent at the birth of the Republic [in 1944]. Actually we sent troops to prevent German invasion. Glad to see that Icelanders have not held our 'occupation' against us and welcome British travellers in increasing numbers. Attracted by scenery, bird life and salmon fishing. Among them the Prince of Wales, the first Royal visitor to call on you in 1980 after your inauguration. Appropriate since I know that one of your shared concerns is the conservation of the environment.

Tourism remind me that Iceland has many and varied commercial ^{links} with Britain. We have been one of your 3 most important trading partners for many years. Samband, your unique Federation of Cooperative Societies, has had an office in the UK for more than 60 years. [(Subject to final Guest List) and I am pleased to welcome here ^{today} ~~tonight~~ Mr Sigurdsson, Director of Samband UK (Reserve for No 35, 36 on draft list)]. Britain greatly values Icelandic contribution to strength of Western community. Iceland has accepted the responsibility imposed by her crucial

geo-strategic position and has proved a key member of the Atlantic Alliance. Britain and Iceland share the same values and ideals and pursue the same objectives: world peace, the rule of law and international trade and cooperation. As you yourself have nobly said, Madam President, 'We are all of us citizens of the world . . . duty bound to contribute . . . to our . . . utmost ability to the continuing progress of the spirit of humanity.' [President Vigdis's inauguration speech].

In conclusion, honoured to have had the opportunity to talk to you today. Your visit underlines and has served to strengthen the traditional warm friendship which exists between our two countries. I am confident that the friendship can only deepen still further in the years to come.