

MR BARCLAY

On the basis of our rain-soaked and sketchy recce today, you might like to bear in mind the following in considering DoE's programme.

1. The programme is tight for time, heavy on mud, buildings and important people but light on human interest.
2. Positive things which struck us were:
 - (a) Rotherhithe Street: on one side is the down town Southwark Council run-down estate with boarded-up windows etc. Only 160 dwellings now occupied with 640 vacant. Southwark apparently resisted the LDDC plan to take it over. On the other side of the road is the Brunswick Quay private sector housing (for sale) development. There is an impressive contrast here. Bob Mellish will be in the accompanying party eager to impart his background knowledge.
 - (b) We passed the Watermans Arms pub which was where, we understand, Geoffrey Howe first enunciated his free enterprise/de-regulatory/ideas for enterprise zones.
 - (c) The LDDC has a staff of just over 100 and the programme, as envisaged, does not allow the Prime Minister to see, let alone meet, any but the chiefs. We understand that most of the staff are based in West India House which is quite near where the Prime Minister is to have lunch. My suggestion would be that the Prime Minister should pass this building and the staff, weather permitting, could assemble in front of it enabling her to pause and at least wave at them. This need only take a couple of minutes, although given the Prime Minister's inclination to make the most of such occasions, it could stretch.

- (d) At Heron Quays, where the Prime Minister is to make her 5 minute speech in a yellow marquee and then exit to drive a pile for the photographers, there is the Albatross Wind and Water Club. We think that kids are involved here wind surfing and messing about in boats. If kids could be laid on, a brief pause would make a good pic and boost the human interest.

3. The negative things which struck us were:

- (a) Nigel Brookes' inclination to get the Prime Minister off the boat and into the back streets - to be resisted.
- (b) The projected whistle stop tour of Limehouse Productions envisages PM walking through the Limehouse Productions' building and provides an opportunity for Jeremy Wallington to bend her ear on television concerns - one can assume Channel 4, DBS, money in general etc. The PM has already been generous with her ears televisionwise and in any case we gather that Jeremy Wallington will be at the lunch. Accordingly suggest no need to stop off at this point.
- (c) The tour of the Enterprise Zone developments includes the former Docks' Police Barracks building (historic/listed) which has been converted into small industrial/commercial units favouring traditional/artistic/craft enterprises from tea blending to sculpture. However, no stop is scheduled. The building and its architecture is interesting and the new use of old buildings I think deserves more than a drive-in, drive-out.
- (d) We only saw the British Telecom site in the distance so we can give no advice on its interest quotient.

Overall our recommendation would be accentuate the positives, eliminate the negatives and don't over-clutter the programme.

Beth Fried

PP ROMOLA CHRISTOPHERSON
Deputy Press Secretary