

cc Subjects Bermuda
May 1982 Relations



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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 April 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No.T.50/84

Mr. ...

Thank you for your letter of 7 March about your recent visit to London. It was a great pleasure to see you again.

I have considered most carefully your suggestion that you should attend Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings as an observer. But having looked at all the precedents and the implications, I have come, most reluctantly, to the conclusion that we shall not be able to secure the Commonwealth's agreement to this. By long-standing convention, attendance at such meetings is limited to the Heads of Government of independent sovereign member states of the Commonwealth (Foreign Ministers participate either as members of their Heads of Government's delegation or when deputising for them). Earlier requests for attendance from territories which have not achieved full independence have been turned down. I am afraid that there would be a similar response to your own suggestion and in those circumstances I think it better not to make the request. I am so sorry - because I have much sympathy with your wish.

This does not, of course, exclude the possibility of Bermudan representatives attending other Commonwealth meetings as members of the United Kingdom delegation. As you will

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know, Bermuda has been represented at recent Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meetings. We shall be happy to continue this arrangement in future if you let us know well in advance.

I look forward to talking with you again in connection with the inauguration of the new Cable and Wireless Earth Station on 30 April.

Yours faithfully,

Yours sincerely,
Raymond D. D. D.

The Honourable J. W. Swan, J.P., M.P.